

Office of School Board Members  
Board Meeting of February 10, 2010

February 8, 2010

Ms. Ana Rivas Logan, Member

**SUBJECT: REPORT ON OUTCOME OF THE 37<sup>TH</sup> FEDERAL RELATIONS NETWORK**

**COMMITTEE: INNOVATION, EFFICIENCY AND GOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS**

**LINK TO STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK: SCHOOL/DISTRICT LEADERSHIP**

The National School Boards Association (NSBA) held its 37<sup>th</sup> annual Federal Relations Network (FRN) Conference in Washington, D.C. on January 31-February 2, 2010 which I attended and represented the District. The FRN involves local school board members from every congressional district in the country who are committed to grassroots advocacy on behalf of public education. The ultimate goal of your FRN advocacy is to make public education a top priority of the federal government.

Key issues FRN is advocating on behalf of school districts are:

- The reauthorization of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA/NCLB);
- Adequate funding for education programs, including full funding for mandates such as the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) and Title I;
- Local governance and decision-making as keys to effective public education and student achievement in the 21st century; and
- Initiatives in pre-k education, teacher effectiveness, and education innovation.

In addition to meeting with members of Congress to discuss the Miami-Dade County Public Schools' federal legislative platform, we received a briefing from United States Secretary of Education, Arne Duncan, on the President's recommended budget for FY2011. President Obama's recommended FY2011 education budget signals a bold new direction for federal K-12 education policy with more competitive funding. The proposed budget includes \$49.7 billion for the Department of Education's discretionary programs, an increase of \$3.5 billion over fiscal year 2010. The budget also includes \$173 billion in loans, grants, tax credits and work-study programs to help students go to college.

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The proposed budget includes a \$3 billion increase in competitive funding for the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA), the largest increase ever requested for programs under the 1965 law which includes an additional \$1.35 billion to continue Race to the Top and \$500 million for the Investing in Innovation Fund.

More significantly, the budget consolidates 38 ESEA programs into 11 funding streams. However, Title I, Title II, Title III and IDEA remain intact and formula-driven. The President's budget also notes that the administration will propose to replace the accountability system established in the No Child Left Behind Act with a new system built around the goal of helping all students graduate high school college and career ready. In addition, the budget would provide \$9.3 billion for competitive grants to states over the next 10 years to improve the quality of early learning programs and prepare students for success in kindergarten. This has been a priority of NSBA.

**ACTION PROPOSED BY  
MS. ANA RIVAS LOGAN:**

That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, accept the report of the National School Boards Association's FRN Conference held January 31- February 2, 2010.