

Dr. Lawrence S. Feldman, Board Member

**SUBJECT:                    REVIEW OF CURRENT POLICIES AND PRACTICES  
                                  RELATED TO STUDENT HEAD AND BRAIN INJURIES  
                                  SUSTAINED DURING DISTRICT SPONSORED SPORTS AND  
                                  ATHLETIC EVENTS**

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

**LINK TO STRATEGIC  
FRAMEWORK:                STUDENT, PARENT, AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT**

Brain injuries are the #1 leading cause of death and disability for children and young adults in America. The Sarah Jane Brain Foundation, along with the American College of Sports Medicine, will be launching the Zackery Lystedt Brain Project on Wednesday, February 3, 2010 in Miami. This will be a national initiative to advance the core principles dealing with youth sports concussions using four methods: public awareness, education and training, legislation and further research. Zackery Lystedt is a brave, 17-year-old teenager from Washington who suffered a concussion playing football. He was sent back into the game too soon thereafter and collapsed after the very last play of the game, suffering a debilitating brain injury. The brain injury left him paralyzed and with serious permanent disabilities. He and his family launched a successful effort in their home state of Washington to raise awareness and pass legislation there to prevent this from happening to another young athlete. With the support of Governor Charlie Christ's office, Florida is one of several states that currently has a similar bill in the works. The Governor will espouse its purpose to his fellow governors at their national meeting next month.

In a proactive and important effort to reduce the number of concussions and brain injuries, Miami Dade County Public Schools should review its current policies and procedures related to head and brain injuries sustained at any district-sponsored athletic events or physical education classes.

**ACTION PROPOSED BY  
DR. LAWRENCE S. FELDMAN:**

That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, direct the Superintendent to review current practices and policies related to head and brain injuries sustained during district-sponsored sporting and athletic event and physical education classes and provide a report and recommendations to the School Board for the March 2010 School Board Meeting.

This report should include, but not be necessarily limited to, measures, policies, and existing Miami-Dade County Public School Board rules that address the following:

1. The education and verification that every youth athlete, their parents, coaches and athletic trainers understand the risks associated with concussions, head injuries, brain injuries and mild traumatic brain injuries (TBI);
2. The use of athlete and parents consent forms indicating their understanding of risks associated with head concussions, head injuries, brain injuries and TBI;
3. Practices and established protocol in place at school sites and sporting events when a student sustains a concussion or head injury;
4. Personnel required, by sport, at high school sporting events and athletic competitions;
5. Clarification of training requirements of personnel entrusted with evaluating students suspected of having sustained a head injury while at a district-sponsored sporting events.