

Mr. Carlos L. Curbelo, Board Member

**SUBJECT: DIRECT THE SUPERINTENDENT TO ANALYZE AND IDENTIFY FUNDING ALTERNATIVES TO THE DISCRETIONARY CAPITAL OUTLAY PROPERTY TAX**

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

**LINK TO STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK: FINANCIAL EFFICIENCY/ STABILITY**

The deterioration of our facilities has become one of the most dangerous threats to Miami-Dade County Public Schools. Many of our schools – especially those in the urban core – require extensive maintenance work. Recent media stories have documented the severity of the situation and the adverse impact it is having on students and teachers. This is one of the most unfortunate consequences of the economic crisis that has engulfed our nation, state, and community since 2008, when Wall Street collapsed and the precipitous decline in property values began. Dramatic reductions in funding have caused our deferred maintenance and school modernization projects schedule to grow to almost \$2 billion. This is nothing short of a crisis.

Funding for maintenance and school construction projects is now wholly dependent on proceeds from the discretionary capital outlay property tax since the state no longer appropriates funds for those purposes. Due to declining property values and the legislative partial shift of two mill capital outlay funds to operating, a funding crisis has been experienced on an annual basis, culminating in a serious reduction last spring in capital staffs which administer the program and a projected virtual disappearance of new construction projects, beginning in fiscal 12-13. Further, the recent state Ad Valorem Estimating Conference projected an additional erosion in property values during 12-13 which will only serve to further exacerbate the crisis.

In the midst of all the economic turmoil, the School Board of Miami-Dade County, in strong partnership with the Superintendent and his leadership team, have led and served as an example to other school systems and local governments. The creation of new efficiencies and the elimination of wasteful spending have allowed the district to shield students and teachers from the most damaging effects of the current economic environment.

It is again time to lead and find ways to increase school funding, reduce property taxes, and contribute to the economic recovery of our community by creating private sector jobs.

**ACTION PROPOSED BY  
MR. CARLOS L. CURBELO:**

That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida direct the Superintendent to analyze and identify funding alternatives to its current reliance on the discretionary capital outlay property tax and conduct a Board workshop to communicate and discuss those alternatives as soon as practical.

} Revised



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