

Dr. Lawrence S. Feldman, Vice Chair

**SUBJECT:                   REQUEST THAT THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA AUTHORIZE THE SUPERINTENDENT TO EXPLORE RESIDENTIAL PROFESSIONAL LEARNING COMMUNITIES FOR APPLICABLE INSTRUCTORS THAT WOULD SERVE MULTIPLE FUNCTIONS**

**COMMITTEE:               INSTRUCTIONAL   EXCELLENCE    AND    COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT**

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

Professional Learning Communities (PLC) develop teacher leadership capacity while explicitly focusing on building and sustaining school improvement efforts in an ongoing, high-performing, and collaborative manner. Team members regularly work toward continued improvement in meeting learner needs through a shared curricular-focused vision and by critically refining their practice in an ongoing, reflective, collaborative, and professional manner. PLC's are committed to working collaboratively with higher education in an ongoing process of collective inquiry and action research to achieve better results for the students they serve.

Many successful schools within Miami-Dade County Public Schools (M-DCPS) currently engage in PLC strategies, to a limited degree, through the use of data-based reflective practices on both a grade level and school wide team basis. School site administrators, curriculum coaches, teachers and other stakeholders admirably lead this charge in school-site reform with available resources. In an effort to enhance teaching and replicate the success seen at other educational entities, this item seeks to expand the PLC to a residential arena with added responsibilities and benefits to participants and the community.

The successful shift of focus of school reform from restructuring to reculturing can best be achieved through a residential program that would allow a PLC to mimic the most successful residential university programs aimed at fostering successful teaching and learning. In a residential setting, teachers may be able to access housing and employment in exchange for their commitment to ongoing professional development through the PLC, service/tutoring to students through early evening community programs or labs, and a contractual commitment to remain in M-DCPS schools. Additionally, the opportunity exists to provide on site degree advancement, career training for others, and a birth to four-year-old program.

**Replacement  
H-28**

Through the use of already existing educational facilities or cost-effective alternatives, this item seeks to authorize the Superintendent to explore the feasibility of establishing a residential Professional Learning Community for teachers.

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

That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, authorize the Superintendent to explore the feasibility of using already existing educational facilities or other cost-effective alternatives to establish a residential Professional Learning Community for teachers and report back to the Board by its September 2012 meeting.