

Dr. Martin Karp, Board Member

**SUBJECT: CLASSROOM MANAGEMENT AND PARENT STRATEGIES
FOR ATTENTION DEFICIT HYPERACTIVITY DISORDER**

**COMMITTEE: INSTRUCTIONAL EXCELLENCE & COMMUNITY
ENGAGEMENT**

**LINK TO STRATEGIC
FRAMEWORK: EDUCATION**

In 2011, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reported that the percentage of children in the United States who have been diagnosed with Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD) is 9.5 percent. Boys are diagnosed two to three times as often as girls.

In school, untreated ADHD contributes to more behavior problems, lower success in school and higher dropout rates. Unfortunately, the side effects of unmanaged children's ADHD turn into severe problems for adults including higher rates of depression and obesity, incarceration and increased issues with relationships and employment.

Professor Dr. Joseph Biederman at Harvard Medical School says ADHD may be the costliest medical condition in the United States. "Evaluating, diagnosing, and treating this condition may not only improve the quality of life, but may save billions of dollars every year."

While multi-faceted strategies such as behavior intervention and education training have shown to be effective, many times such strategies are ignored and medicine is solely used to address ADHD.

Research studies show that teaching ADHD management techniques for students, parents and teachers reduces behavior problems more effectively than medicine and eliminates the need for some children to be medicated. Even for those children who require medicine, studies show that they experience fewer behavior problems when receiving the proper classroom management techniques combined with the medicine.

Miami-Dade County Public Schools (M-DCPS) should thoroughly address ADHD in the school system including proper training, treatment and strategies to provide for our students, educators, and parents. Currently, Paul Bell Middle School has been hosting Florida International University's Summer Treatment Program for ADHD. The program emphasizes many areas including teaching students' behavior and attention development strategies, while at the same time providing parents with coping and strategy methods to retain the gains their children make during the summer program. After completion 99 percent of the parents recommend the program, and behavior and social issues with these children dramatically improved.

M-DCPS has an opportunity to explore partnerships and research grants to provide the school system with additional resources to address ADHD. The District should also consider whether specialty programs with parental choice options can benefit M-DCPS and children with ADHD.

**ACTION PROPOSED BY
DR. MARTIN KARP:**

That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, authorize the Superintendent to:

1. Review current services offered for students with ADHD including classroom management techniques and parent education programs; and,
2. Explore whether specialty programs with parental choice options in select schools can improve services for students with ADHD in M-DCPS; and,
3. Provide a response by the November 19, 2014 School Board meeting.