

Office of School Board Members  
Board Meeting of May 16, 2001

May 15, 2001

Jacqueline V. Pepper, Member

**SUBJECT: REQUEST THAT THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA, DIRECT THE SUPERINTENDENT TO DIRECT STAFF TO PREPARE DETAILED WRITTEN AND VERBAL REPORTS FOR PRESENTATION IN THE JUNE 20, 2001, BOARD MEETING OF THE SIT AWARDS TO DATE AND THE STATUS OF THE REMAINING SIT AWARD APPLICATIONS. THE REPORT SHOULD INCLUDE A SCHEDULE FOR COMPLETION OF ALL REMAINING SIT AWARD APPLICATIONS FOR ELIGIBLE FACILITIES.**

As discussed in Agenda Item B-10 of the April meeting of this Board, many MDCPS schools have been constructed which meet the guidelines of the Smart Schools Clearinghouse. Smart Schools are schools that are soundly made, accountable, reasonable, and thrifty. Approximately thirty-six of our schools are now eligible and others under construction will become eligible as they are completed and occupied. SIT awards from the State of Florida Smart Schools Clearinghouse are given by the state for schools built meeting cost criteria in state law. The award is equal to half the difference between the actual construction cost and the cost criteria established in the law. As of this writing, applications have been submitted for Jose de Diego Middle School, Doral Middle School, Lawton Chiles Middle School, Michael Krop High School, Felix Varela High School, and Coral Reef Senior High School. On-site inspections have been made by the State and those applications will be reviewed by the Smart Schools Clearinghouse in their May 24, 2001, meeting. It is expected that these applications will result in significant awards to Miami-Dade County Public Schools.

However, there are currently approximately thirty additional completed facilities that are also eligible for awards. The awards are made from a decreasing fund to which every other Florida county can also apply on a first come, first served basis, regardless of need. It is imperative that these awards be aggressively pursued if MDCPS is to receive the maximum benefit for which our construction program has qualified the District.

In order for the Board to insure vigilance in the pursuit of these awards, it is recommended that the Board direct the Superintendent to direct staff prepare a schedule indicating the facility name and projected completion date for SIT award application completion and submittal for the remaining eligible schools. In addition, the Superintendent should direct staff to prepare written and verbal status reports and a presentation to be presented in the June 20, 2001, Board meeting. In addition, the Superintendent should direct staff to provide a written and verbal report to the Board on a monthly basis to keep the Board informed about status of the application process for the remaining eligible schools.

REPLACEMENT  
B-18

**ACTION PROPOSED BY  
JACQUELINE V. PEPPER:**

That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, direct the Superintendent to direct staff to provide a presentation and a written and verbal report of the SIT awards and the status of the SIT award applications at the June 20, 2001, Board Meeting and at subsequent Board Meetings until all applications are submitted. The report should include a schedule for completion of all remaining SIT award applications for eligible facilities.