

Demetrio Pérez, Jr., M.S., Member

**SUBJECT: REQUEST THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA, TO INSTRUCT THE BOARD ATTORNEY TO PREPARE A PROPOSITION REGARDING THE SELECTION OF THE SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS FOR DECISION BY REFERENDUM IN 2002 TO BE EFFECTIVE IN 2004**

The School Board must take all necessary steps to insure that the public trust is guarded from all perception of mistrust. One such effort is to give the people of Miami-Dade County, Florida, the right to vote for the Superintendent of Schools in the same manner as 44 other Florida school districts. Returning the selection of the Superintendent to the people will demonstrate the Board's sincere commitment to improving the public image of the school system. An elected Superintendent of Schools will show a greater responsibility to the people as well as the Board. This measure will give the people more responsibility as to the choice of the chief executive officer running the public schools of Miami-Dade County, Florida.

The Constitution of Florida allows for the proposition regarding the manner in which a Superintendent is selected to be placed before the voters by resolution of the school board or by special law of the Legislature. In order to initiate this process, the board can instruct the Board Attorney to prepare the resolution regarding a change of the manner in which the Superintendent of Schools is selected. The proposition will ask the voters of Miami-Dade County, Florida, whether the selection of Superintendent of Schools should be changed from appointment by the School Board to election by the voters.

It is recommended that this proposition be submitted to the people of Miami-Dade County by formal resolution of the School Board during the election of 2002, to be effective September, 2004.

**ACTION PROPOSED BY**

**DEMETRIO PÉREZ, JR., M. S.:** That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, instruct the Board Attorney to develop a formal resolution, within 90 days, requesting the Board of County Commissioners to place on the ballot for a referendum election in the year 2002 the proposition to make the office of Superintendent of Schools elective in the year 2004.

REPLACEMENT  
B-21