Office of School Board Members   August 10, 2001
Board Meeting of August 22, 2001

Ms. Perla Tabares Hantman, Chair

SUBJECT: RECONVENE THE AD HOC MULTILINGUAL TASK FORCE

During the 1997-98 school year, the Ad Hoc Multilingual Task Force was convened in order
to design and implement a plan to improve the delivery of bilingual programs districtwide.
The recommendations of the Ad Hoc Multilingual Task Force were received by the School
Board at its meeting of March 18, 1998. These recommendations focused on: (1)
increased amount of instructional time in a language other than English, (2) application of
a language other than English in content area learning, and (3) sustained study of a
language other than English with opportunity for program continuity from kindergarten
through grade 12. The specific recommendations were to be phased-in over a three-year
period beginning with 1998-99 school-year.

The need for a bilingual and biliterate workforce in the south Florida area continues to be
a priority for the business community. The economic future of Miami-Dade depends in
great part on what we do with our children in terms of bilingualism. Goal 1 of the District
Strategic Plan, School to Career, has as one of its objectives to increase the number of
students and adults who are bilingual and biliterate. In order to reassess the district's
progress towards meeting this goal, it is recommended that the Ad Hoc Multilingual Task
Force be reconvened and that a new three year action plan be presented to the Board at
the School Board meeting of January 2002.

ACTION PROPOSED BY
MS. PERLA TABARES HANTMAN: That The School Board of Miami-Dade County,
                                 Florida, direct the Superintendent to:

1. reconvene the Ad Hoc Multilingual Task Force
   following the configuration of representatives
   previously established;

2. develop a new three year action plan in order to
   increase opportunities for students to become
   bilingual and biliterate; and

3. present to the School Board, at its meeting of
   January 2002, a status report on
   implementation of the 1998 recommendations
   and the new three year action plan.

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