

Mr. Frank J. Cobo, Member

**SUBJECT: DISCUSSION OF PROCEDURES FOR CITIZEN APPEARANCES AT
SCHOOL BOARD PUBLIC HEARINGS WHEN THE PERSON IS NOT
SCHEDULED IN ADVANCE TO SPEAK**

School Board Rule 6Gx13-8C-1.17 sets forth the procedures for citizen appearances at School Board meetings. For "Scheduled Public Hearings", the Board rule provides that any citizen who wishes to be heard must present a written request no later than 4:30 p.m. on the Monday preceding a regular Wednesday Board meeting. When a citizen does not meet the deadline, the rule provides that generally, only on matters of grave public importance will the Board consent to permit that person to speak. The rule further provides for a unanimous vote of those Board members present at the meeting to permit the person to be heard.

In certain instances, members of the public legitimately cannot meet the 4:30 p.m. Monday deadline. Therefore, the Board rule should be amended to permit the Board in its discretion for good cause to permit a person to speak even if they did not meet the Monday deadline. Therefore, I recommend that the School Board direct the Superintendent to amend the Board rule to permit a person to speak, upon a majority vote of the Board members present at the meeting, provided that person submits a written request demonstrating good cause why the Monday deadline was not met. This written request must be submitted no later than 10:00 a.m. on the day of the Board meeting.

**ACTION PROPOSED BY
MR. FRANK J. COBO:**

That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida direct the Superintendent to amend Board Rule 6Gx13-8C-1.17, Citizen Appearances - - Board Meetings, to permit a person to speak, upon a majority vote of the Board members present at the meeting, provided that person submits a written request demonstrating good cause why the Monday deadline was not met. This written request must be submitted no later than 10:00 a.m. on the day of the Board meeting.