

Ms. Perla Tabares Hantman, Chair

**SUBJECT: DISCUSSION CONCERNING THE ROLE AND AUTHORITY OF THE SCHOOL BOARD AS TRUSTEE/LICENSEE OF WLRN-TV AND WLRN-RADIO AND INTENT TO INITIATE RULEMAKING**

The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida as trustee and licensee of WLRN-TV and WLRN-Radio is ultimately responsible for ensuring that the programming of its television and radio stations meet the needs of the community they serve while consistently adhering to all applicable federal, state and local laws.

For well over two decades, the School Board has operated its radio and television stations in a manner designed to comport to standards of editorial broadcasting integrity and responsibility, but it has done so without articulating a School Board rule setting forth a formalized statement of policy. The Board has over the years accepted reports from staff concerning WLRN programming policies, procedures and guidelines and has adopted the document entitled: "Statement of Principles of Editorial Integrity in Public Broadcasting".

The School Board, in its role as trustee and licensee, has exercised responsible governance in cooperation with station management and the WLRN Community Advisory Board. At this time, the role and authority of the School Board, its relationship with station management and its governing board should be set forth in Board rule to ensure that all stakeholders, staff, management and the community have a clear understanding of the Board's policy in this area.

**ACTION PROPOSED BY**

**MS. PERLA TABARES HANTMAN:**

That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida direct the Superintendent to prepare and provide the following to assist the Board in developing a Board policy on WLRN governance:

- 1) a report on WLRN-TV and WLRN-Radio, its advisory mechanisms, programming decision making process and the role of the School Board as licensee/trustee; and
- 2) draft language for a proposed School Board rule on WLRN governance.