

Betsy H. Kaplan, Member

**SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR AUTHORIZATION TO HALT THE PROCESS OF
RETROFITTING SCHOOL BUSES WITH AIR CONDITIONING**

At the meeting of September 13, 2000, the School Board authorized the Superintendent of Schools to implement a plan that would complete the air conditioning of the entire Miami-Dade County Public Schools bus fleet by 2012. The first stage of the plan called for the retrofitting of 270 buses purchased in the year 2000 at an estimated cost of \$2,060,972 with an additional annual recurring cost of \$285,795. The 270 retrofitted buses would be the first air-conditioned buses in the fleet, slated to serve approximately 43 percent of the total transported special needs population starting in the 2001-2002 school year. The subsequent stages of the plan required that all new buses be purchased with air conditioning starting with the 2002-2003 school year.

As we face a year of lean budget projections and lagging revenues, it is incumbent upon the members of the Board to systematically assess the value and costs of programs. As such, I am proposing to halt the process of retrofitting with air conditioning the 270 new buses at an immediate saving of approximately \$2,060,972. Also, by purchasing the designated 219 buses without air conditioning, the Board would create an additional savings of \$1,576,929. I am further recommending that the Board reconsider its decision to complete the air conditioning of the entire Miami-Dade County Public Schools bus fleet by 2012.

In addition to the financial impact, the combined effects of the two actions would be as follows:

- The 270 buses purchased in the year 2000 will not be retrofitted with air conditioning.
- New buses will continue to be purchased without air conditioning.
- The district will continue to transport through contracted services the medically fragile students whose Individual Education Plan (IEP) requires air-conditioned transportation.
- Private bus companies bidding to contract with Miami-Dade County Public Schools will not be required to have air conditioned buses starting with the year 2012.

**ACTION PROPOSED BY
MS. BETSY H. KAPLAN:**

That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, authorize the Superintendent of Schools to:

1. end the process of retrofitting school buses with air conditioning at an estimated initial savings of \$2,060,972; and
2. halt the implementation of the plan to air condition the entire Miami-Dade County Public Schools bus fleet by 2012.

BHK:rw