

Dr. Robert B. Ingram, Member

SUBJECT: REQUEST THAT THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA, DIRECT THE SUPERINTENDENT TO DEVELOP A PLAN TO AMEND THE BUDGET TO SALVAGE THE PARAPROFESSIONAL PROGRAM

At its October 23, 2002 meeting, the School Board postponed discussion of this item to allow staff to research potential funding alternatives that would salvage the paraprofessional program. As we grow closer to the end of the first semester, it is imperative that the Board discuss this issue.

The 2002-03 Adopted Budget included phasing out paraprofessionals in elementary schools previously in the In-School Alternative Education Program and K-1 Systems Management Program.

Positions were budgeted for the first semester only. A freeze was initiated on filling all paraprofessional positions with outside or persons transferring from part-time positions. Efforts have been made to transfer incumbents from program 8948 to open positions in Title I and Exceptional Student Education. Positions are eliminated as they become open. In addition, positions were not permitted to be converted to hourly funds.

As of October 22, 2002, 322 full-time paraprofessionals positions are being funded through Program 8948. It is estimated that the costs of salvaging the remaining paraprofessionals is \$3,391,062 through the end of Fiscal Year 2002-03. Funding the program from Contingency would result in a Contingency balance of \$15,608,928.

This item does not appear in the published agenda. There is good cause to vary from the agenda because this issue must be settled prior to the end of the first semester of classes, and staff as well as the affected employees must be given direction with sufficient time to formulate an alternative.

**ACTION PROPOSED BY
DR. ROBERT B. INGRAM:**

That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, conduct a discussion on the possibility of salvaging the paraprofessional program.