

Frank J. Bolaños, Member

**SUBJECT: EFFICIENCY INITIATIVES FOR RELEASE OF PECO
FUNDS HELD IN RESERVE**

**COMMITTEE: LEGISLATIVE RELATIONS, PERSONNEL SERVICES AND
POLICY DEVELOPMENT**

The Florida Legislature created the Land Acquisition and Facilities Advisory Board in 2001 and further extended its scope in 2002 to include Maintenance Operations, Transportation and Procurement.

This board has yet to certify that the district has adopted new practices as recommended by the board, auditor general or OPPAGA. As a result, the Governor's Office has not yet released \$23 Million in PECO funds. It is in the interest of Miami-Dade Public Schools that the School Board take positive steps forward in improving efficiencies and secure those funds.

In advance of Fiscal Year 2003-2004, the School Board needs to clearly identify the necessary steps to obtain Advisory Board recommendation & Department of Education concurrence to release funds. As early as the Advisory board meeting of May 15, 2003, the School Board should present a working program to gain the gradual release of PECO funds to include, but not be limited to:

1. Report on implementation of OPPAGA efficiencies
2. Timetable for Facilities Maintenance Pilot Program
3. Identify increased efficiencies resulting from: changes in Land Planning & Acquisition; Ethics Commission Recommendations; Inspector General; Access Centers; Management of Facilities Maintenance; and the Efficiency & Competition Committee

Before adopting any final plan, all stakeholders must be involved and informed, to include affected employees and unions through community meetings and employee communications.