

June 18, 2003

Merrett R. Stierheim, Superintendent of Schools

SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR BOARD CONSIDERATION OF COMMITTEE TO TRACK RELEASED P.E.C.O. REVENUES AND TO MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS FOR STREAMLINING CONSTRUCTION TIME AND COSTS

The Miami-Dade Land Acquisition and Facilities Maintenance Operations Advisory Board has recommended that the School Board approve the creation of a committee to track released P.E.C.O. revenues and to recommend ways to streamline school construction time and costs (Attachment). The recommended committee's composition by the Advisory Board is as follows:

1. Two members or delegates of the Advisory Board appointed by that entity;
2. Two members or delegates of the School Board appointed by the Board; and
3. A representative from the Department of Education, appointed by the DOE.

At this time, it is my opinion that the creation of such a committee could be beneficial to the resolution of many of the pending issues and concerns identified by the Advisory Board to date. The committee could create a more organized and focused venue for discussion and consensus building. This would only be true however, if the committee becomes the lead entity and the Advisory Board's role is reduced to quarterly or semi-annual reports, to minimize the burden on an already overloaded District staff. As originally discussed however, the fifth member was to be a prominent local business leader who was respected for his or her judgment and impartiality. Additionally, School Board approval of the creation of this committee should be made subject to the release of P.E.C.O. funds currently impounded at the next regular meeting of the Advisory Board. It may well be advantageous to take this matter under advisement until the July meeting to more clearly define the ground rules for the new committee so that we thoroughly understand the implications.

This item does not appear in the published agenda. There is good cause to vary from the agenda in order to ensure that all of the Advisory Board's recommendations to the School Board are addressed in a timely fashion.

GOOD CAUSE

A-6

RECOMMENDED:

That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, consider the Advisory Board's recommendation for the creation of a committee comprised of five members, the make-up of which should be mutually agreed upon, and be subject to:

1. the committee becoming the lead entity to track P.E.C.O. funds currently impounded, and to recommend ways to streamline school construction time and costs; and
2. the Advisory Board certifying to the legislature at its next regular meeting that P.E.C.O. funds currently impounded can be released to the School District.

MRS:ARC:aj

Attachment

10165 North West 19th Street
Miami, FL 33172

June 12, 2003

Mr. Merrett Stierheim
Superintendent of Schools
Miami Dade County Public Schools
1450 N.E. 2nd Avenue
Miami, FL 33132

Dear Merrett:

At the last Miami-Dade Land Acquisition and Facilities Maintenance Operations Advisory Board meeting of June 10, 2003, the board unanimously voted to recommend to the Miami-Dade County School Board members to vote on the board's revised recommendations. The board has requested that you provide timellnes and anticipated dates of completion on the recommendations that are in process. Please see attached.

The board also recommended the creation of a five member committee made up of two members of the Advisory Board or delegates, two members of the School Board or delegates and a representative from the Department of Education to track released revenues and make recommendations to streamline construction time and costs. The appointments to this committee will be designated by the individual entities.

Lastly, the board recommended to create a "pilot program" in the Maintenance Department for "managed competition" as a proxy that would allow nine schools to be managed completely by a private company and nine schools managed completely by the union.

I would also like to take the opportunity to commend Joe Gomez of the Procurement Department. His presentation reflected the use of sound business practices and cost savings methods for the School District. We need to continue to identify these Best Business Practices at the district.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at (305) 593-2222 or Marie Bell at (305) 995-4812.

Best regards,


Edward W. Easton

cc: Advisory Board Members
School Board Members

/attachments