

Frank J. Bolaños, Member

SUBJECT: PUBLIC HEARING

COMMITTEE: LEGISLATIVE RELATIONS, PUBLIC RELATIONS AND PERSONNEL SERVICES

The School Board has a responsibility to hear from and be accessible to the citizenry it serves. As Miami-Dade County Public Schools takes steps to regain the public's trust and confidence, any measure to increase accessibility is a step in the right direction.

The monthly public hearing of the School Board is the ideal opportunity to hear from citizens in a public forum on any issues of concern to constituents. Public hearings have been a hallmark of democratic governments both small and large; locally it presents the school board with a vehicle for unfiltered input from the community on board policy as well as the administration of our schools. Constituents also enjoy the rare benefit of access to the board in plenary.

However, the unpredictability of the length of the regular school board meeting, and thus a start time for the public hearing has only lessened the public interest to use this avenue. Additionally, those same reasons seem to frustrate those who do take the initiative to come forward and speak to the board.

A time certain start of 6:30 P.M. for the monthly public hearing is recommended at which time the Board would recess its business to hear from the members of the public signed up to speak. After exhausting the public hearing speakers list, the board would re-convene to complete its business.

This change would satisfy OPPAGA's concerns of making the public more accessible to the district's stakeholders.

**ACTION PROPOSED BY
MR. FRANK J. BOLAÑOS:**

That The School Board of Miami-Dade County direct the Board Attorney to amend appropriate board rules to allow for a time certain start of 6:30 PM for the monthly public hearing.