

Ms. Perla Tabares Hantman, Member

**SUBJECT: INITIATE A PILOT PROGRAM FOR BOARD MEMBER
 BRIEFING SESSIONS OF SCHOOL BOARD MEETING AGENDA
 ITEMS AND RELATED TOPICS**

**COMMITTEE: LEGISLATIVE RELATIONS, PUBLIC RELATIONS AND
 PERSONNEL SERVICES**

At the June 18, 1997 School Board meeting, the School Board directed the Superintendent to initiate rulemaking establishing a School Board committee structure. At the Board meeting of December 10, 1997, the Board adopted School Board Rule 6Gx13- 8C-1.23, School Board Committee Structure. This Rule provided for nine committees to serve as a means for Board members to be briefed on Agenda items in advance of the regular monthly meeting and to ensure that the Board was provided the opportunity to formulate, review and deliberate policy recommendations prior to the Board meeting.

At the February 12, 2003 Board meeting, the School Board in response to an Agenda item to amend the Committee Structure Rule changing the nine committees to four committees, voted instead to suspend rulemaking proceedings and to implement a six month trial pilot program composed of four committees. That pilot program is now at its completion and the Board must act to either continue operating under the current Board Rule, amend the current committee structure Board Rule or initiate another pilot program.

At the August 1, 2003, informal Committee Structure Workshop held by a Board member, the Board members present and staff discussed the history of the current Board Rule, the current pilot program and a proposed alternative for Board member briefing that provided for one Board meeting per month, held the Friday or Monday before the regularly scheduled Board meeting. The meeting would be a noticed public meeting for the purpose of providing the Board with an opportunity to thoroughly discuss the upcoming Board Agenda items and develop policy initiatives through this briefing process. The Superintendent or Chief of Staff would serve as the facilitator to notice the meeting and publish the agenda. Each Board member would serve as a Chair of an organizational area similar to those set forth in the current Committee Structure Board Rule. If a Committee Chair were unavailable, the Superintendent or Chief of Staff would facilitate discussion of those items. At the Committee Structure workshop, this proposed pilot program model was received well by staff and the Board members present.

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**ACTION PROPOSED BY
MS. PERLA TABARES HANTMAN:**

That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, do the following:

1. suspend School Board Rule 6Gx13- 8C-1.23, School Board Committee Structure; and
2. initiate a six-month pilot program to provide for School Board member briefing sessions of one Committee Structure briefing per month in advance of the regular monthly School Board meeting to provide a review of Board meeting Agenda items and policy formulation and development.