

Agustin J. Barrera, Member

**SUBJECT: DIRECT THE SUPERINTENDENT OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS TO CONDUCT A WORKSHOP FOR THE SCHOOL BOARD AND PROVIDE RECOMMENDATIONS FOR POLICIES AND PROCEDURES FOR BACKGROUND CHECKS OF SCHOOL VOLUNTEERS**

The School Volunteer Program of Miami-Dade County Public Schools serves as the vehicle to recruit, place, monitor, and recognize school volunteers. The program staff works cooperatively with the staff of the Departments of Education with the State of Florida and the United States government regarding issues and programming within the fields of school volunteerism.

The issue of background checks for volunteers has recently surfaced. While there are currently background checks for specifically identified school volunteers, it may be the time to assess the current status and recommend possible changes in that policy. With a complete review of the current operational procedures, the research regarding law enforcement and legal issues, a look at current practices in other large districts, and a cost analysis of various alternatives, a decision on a change in policy may be reached.

The purpose of this item is to direct the Superintendent to schedule a workshop with the School Board to provide a briefing on the subject, and to bring an item back to the December 10, 2003 School Board meeting recommending procedures for the district.

**ACTION PROPOSED BY  
AGUSTIN J. BARRERA:**

That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, direct the Superintendent to:

- 1) conduct a workshop to review current practices, to discuss legal issues, and to review a cost analysis on the issue of background checks for school volunteers prior to the next School Board Meeting;
- 2) host a meeting of stakeholders to review the analysis and recommended policies; and
- 3) bring a Board item back to the School Board meeting of December 10, 2003 recommending procedures for the district.