

Ms. Evelyn Langlieb Greer, Member

**SUBJECT: REQUEST TO PREPARE AND ISSUE REQUEST FOR
PROPOSALS FOR FACILITIES USE**

COMMITTEE: INNOVATION, EFFICIENCY & GOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS

Miami-Dade County public schools are an important resource in and focus of every community in our County. Opening our schools to the community and using our schools more actively as a community asset is a critical part of this Board and District's effort to involve our parents, our business community and our residents in our schools and in a lifetime of learning.

Many of our schools are not utilized after the regular schools day, which denies the communities in which they are located the potential use of the classrooms, gyms, fields and other facilities in the schools for programs or recreation. The District should adopt a policy of actively allowing the use of our schools for educational, sports and arts programs, whether run by not for profit or for profit organizations.

Further, our schools should be a place to meet for community groups, such as civic associations, business groups, clubs, garden clubs and fraternal groups. Use of the schools should be encouraged, rather than prohibited, so long as basic guidelines for use are followed. Expedited procedures for booking the use of schools, blanket insurance coverage to facilitate use and charges for use should be adopted and promoted.

Use of school facilities has the potential to not only provide needed programming in communities but to provide a service to members of the community, such as senior citizens or those who do not have children in the schools, which will encourage them to support our schools.

The District should create a pro-active program to encourage the use of our schools by issuing Requests For Proposals for after school programs in any school that is not used after regular business hours, encouraging local governments to renovate school fields for sports programs and undertaking a vigorous outreach program to lease and use school facilities for community and civic meetings.

**ACTION PROPOSED BY
MS. EVELYN LANGLIEB GREER:**

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

- 1) prepare and issue Requests For Proposals for use of all or some of the facilities at every school that are not currently used for after school programs;
- 2) issue an invitation to each municipality and unincorporated Miami-Dade County to renovate the fields at the schools within their boundaries for use as sports fields and to oversee sports programs on such fields;
- 3) establish a vigorous outreach program to lease and use school facilities for community and civic meetings; and
- 4) establish reasonable and practical guidelines for use of school facilities for non-school uses, such as providing insurance coverage on an as needed basis, that encourages such uses and eliminates barriers to such use.