

Dr. Marta Pérez, Member

SUBJECT: CLARIFICATION OF SCHOOL BOARD RULE ON GIFTS TO SCHOOL BOARD EMPLOYEES

COMMITTEE: INSTRUCTIONAL EXCELLENCE AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

School Board Rule 6Gx13- 1C-1.08, Gifts to School Personnel, directs employees not to accept gifts and gratuities from any vendor, potential vendor, or patron in excess of \$25.00 in value, and includes meal functions invitations.

During the 2006 holiday season the cost of two holiday celebrations appear to have been partially underwritten by outside entities, vendors or potential vendors. Although I requested full disclosure on the source of funds used for these events, the responses I received were ambiguous as to the identity of the parties that donated the funds, and did not provide any supporting documentation. Subsequently, I renewed my request at the January School Board meeting and specifically requested all invoices, receipts and other documentation detailing the cost and sources of payment for these holiday parties. In adherence to our role as policy makers and guardians of the public trust, I believe we have an excellent opportunity to discuss and clarify Board rules on these issues.

I propose that the School Board request that the Ethics Committee review our board rules, and make recommendations to clarify and/or strengthen the language regarding the acceptance and/or funding of School District events by vendors or potential vendors.

**ACTION PROPOSED BY
DR. MARTA PÉREZ:**

That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, request that the Ethics Committee review our current board rule, 6Gx13- 1C-1.08, Gifts to School Personnel, as well as any other relevant rule, and provide recommendations to clarify and/or strengthen the language regarding the acceptance and/or funding of School District events by vendors or potential vendors.

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