

PROPOSED BOARD MEMBER INITIATIVE

Proposed Board Member Initiative H-7 will be considered by the Board at the Special School Board Meeting scheduled for 11:00 a.m., Thursday, February 8, 2007, as to whether it will be placed on the published agenda for the February 14, 2007 School Board Meeting.

Office of School Board Members
Board Meeting of February 14, 2007

February 1, 2007

Ms. Perla Tabares Hantman, Member

SUBJECT: SCHOOL BOARD ENDORSEMENT OF THE SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL SAFETY PROGRAM AND ENCOURAGE THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROGRAM AT ALL DISTRICT ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS, AS FEDERAL AND/OR STATE FUNDING BECOMES AVAILABLE

SPECIAL SCHOOL BOARD MEETING: FEBRUARY 8, 2007, 11:00 A.M.

LINK TO DISTRICT STRATEGIC PLAN:

Background

The Safe Routes to School (SRTS) Program enables and encourages children, including those with disabilities, to walk and bicycle to school, by making pedestrian routes safer and more appealing, thereby encouraging a healthy and active lifestyle from an early age.

In October 2005, the School District, in collaboration with the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) and the Miami-Dade County Public Works Department (Public Works), created a SRTS pilot program for fifteen elementary schools, with the objective of developing a District-wide program in the near future.

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The schools that were chosen for the initial pilot program are located in Liberty City, where a large number of children already walk to school and where there have been high instances of pedestrian traffic accidents involving children between the ages of five and thirteen. The fifteen schools are:

1. Arcola Lakes Elementary School
2. Charles R. Drew Elementary School
3. Earlington Heights Elementary School
4. Holmes Elementary School
5. Kelsey L. Pharr Elementary School
6. Lenora B. Smith Elementary School
7. Liberty City Elementary School
8. Lilie C. Evans Elementary School
9. Martin Luther King Elementary
10. Miami Park Elementary School
11. Olinda Elementary School
12. Orchard Villa Elementary School
13. Poiniana Park Elementary School
14. Thena Crowder Elementary School
15. West Little River Elementary School

Additional Information

Subsequent to the completion of the pilot program, the U.S. Department of Transportation implemented a new Federal-aid Safe Routes to School (SRTS) legislative initiative. The Federal SRTS Program will provide Federal-aid highway funds to all State Department of Transportation (DOT) agencies across the nation for five fiscal years. In November 2006, the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) developed application guidelines for the program. In response, the School District submitted a request to FDOT to fund approximately \$1 million in infrastructure improvements identified as a result of in the School District's pilot program, including, but not limited to the installation of sidewalks, high emphasis pedestrian crosswalks, and school zone signs and flashing lights. The School District has been advised by FDOT that the pilot program projects have been approved for funding and another \$1 million would be available for additional SRTS projects at the twenty additional school sites listed below. These schools were selected since they are located on a state road, or are accessed via a state road. Based on this criterion, in conjunction with available juvenile pedestrian crash data, the following additional schools have been identified and approved by FDOT for submittal during its next fiscal cycle.

1. Eugenia B. Thomas -- K-8: 5950 NW 114 Avenue, Miami
2. Bob Graham Education Center -- K-8: 15901 NW 79 Avenue, Miami Lakes
3. Van Blanton Elementary: 10327 NW 11 Avenue
4. North Miami Elementary: 655 NE 145 Street, North Miami
5. Riverside Elementary: 1190 SW 2 Street
6. W.J. Bryan Elementary: 1200 NE 125 Street, North Miami
7. Pine Vila Elementary: 21799 SW 117 Court
8. Amelia Earhart Elementary: 5987 East 7 Avenue
9. Miami Shores Elementary: 10351 NE 5 Avenue
10. Caribbean Elementary: 11990 SW 200 Street
11. Ludlum Elementary: 6639 SW 74 Street
12. Henry S. Flagler Elementary: 5222 NW 1 Street
13. Joella Good Elementary: 6350 NW 188 Terrace
14. Southside Elementary: 45 SW 13 Street
15. Melrose Elementary: 3050 NW 34 Street
16. South Pointe Elementary: 1050 Fourth Street, Miami Beach
17. Barbara Hawkins Elementary: 19010 NW 37 Avenue
18. Fulford Elementary: 16140 NE 18 Avenue, North Miami Beach
19. Opa Locka Elementary: Ahmad Street, Opa Locka
20. 20. Flamingo Elementary: East 33 Street, Hialeah

In addition, FDOT is also allocating funding for non-infrastructure related educational programs and has approved funding for the WalkSafe Program, developed by the Ryder Trauma Center at the University of Miami-Miller School of Medicine. The WalkSafe Program is a pedestrian injury prevention program designed to reduce pediatric pedestrian trauma by educating elementary school age children, teachers, parents and surrounding communities about traffic safety. The School Board, at its April 9, 2003 meeting, mandated the integration of this program, which is now coordinated along with the Walk Our Children to School Day event in October of each year.

ACTION PROPOSED BY

MS. PERLA TABARES HANTMAN:

That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, endorse the Safe Routes to School Program and encourage implementation of the program at all District elementary schools, as federal and/or state funding becomes available and direct the Superintendent to formalize the application process for funding of the program.