

Office of Superintendent of Schools
Board Meeting of August 1, 2007

July 26, 2007

Rudolph F. Crew, Ed.,D., Superintendent of Schools

SUBJECT: ADOPT A LEGISLATIVE POSITION REGARDING BUDGETARY CUTS FOR THE SPECIAL SESSION – SEPTEMBER 18, 2007

COMMITTEE: INNOVATION, EFFICIENCY & GOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS

LINK TO DISTRICT

STRATEGIC PLAN: ESTABLISH GREATER ALLIANCE WITH LEGISLATIVE BODIES

The President of the Florida Senate and the Speaker of the Florida House of Representatives have announced a special session on the state budget deficit. The Special Session is tentatively scheduled for September 18th, through early October, 2007 with committee meetings beginning late August, 2007. As you are aware, Florida's economy has slowed more than estimated, therefore if this trend continues state revenues would not support the current level of appropriations budgeted for in the state's adopted General Appropriations Act of 2007.

Since the State has the mandate to provide a quality equitable public education for all Florida school children, it is imperative that the impact on public education be minimized. The Commissioner of Education has held conference calls with district school superintendents and chief financial officers in the attempt to identify areas that potentially could be cut to minimize the impact on students and classroom expenditures. Additionally, the Florida Association of District School Superintendents is advocating that expenditures directed to and supporting the classroom be held harmless. Across-the board percentage reductions to achieve the desired budgetary reductions would be detrimental to the district's educational program.

RECOMMENDED: That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, advocate that budget reductions should minimally impact public education and authorize the Superintendent to advocate a position in the best interest of the School District.

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