

Dr. Martin Karp, Board Member

SUBJECT: DIRECT THE SUPERINTENDENT TO ESTABLISH A TASK FORCE TO GENERATE REVENUES AND TO BECOME A PART OF THE EXISTING CONVERSATIONS ABOUT THE FUNDING FORMULA FOR SCHOOLS SHOULD VOTERS DECIDE TO EXPAND GAMBLING IN MIAMI-DADE COUNTY

REVISED

COMMITTEE: INNOVATION, EFFICIENCY AND GOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS

LINK TO DISTRICT STRATEGIC PLAN: GENERAL OPERATIONS

High performing schools are essential to the future of business, tourism and quality of life in Miami-Dade County. In the past year, numerous discussions and budget workshops have focused on ways to reduce costs with far less attention on revenues.

At the local community college, a committee was created to address the revenue side of the equation with an emphasis on how to bring in additional dollars. As a result, the people of Florida will vote on Constitutional Amendment 8 next month, which may lead to a supplement to state funding for the colleges.

ADDED

Unfortunately, the School District has not been proactive.

Miami-Dade County Public Schools (M-DCPS) should immediately create a task force with representation from the tourism industry, local chambers of commerce, municipal and county leaders, United Teachers of Dade and Dade County Council PTA/PTSA. The members of the task force would focus on strengthening existing revenue streams and embarking on new projects, grants, partnerships or legislation that add needed revenue to M-DCPS.

Another purpose of the item is to be proactive should voters decide to support gambling, and for this District to be a part of any conversations about a formula for school funding. Based on an article in The Miami Herald, discussions have taken place regarding a formula for school funding if gambling is approved. The Miami-Dade School District should participate in future conversations about this formula.

ADDED

**REVISED
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This item is not about taking a position on the issue of gambling. Developers Art Falcone and Marc Roberts have set up a political group, the Committee for Critical Challenges, which has raised \$1.2 million—including \$30,000—from the Fontainebleau—to explore bringing casino gambling to Miami and Miami Beach. Casino gambling is illegal in Miami-Dade County.

The two Miami developers are exploring a campaign to amend Florida's constitution through a possible ballot referendum in 2010, which would need to be approved by at least 60 percent of Florida voters for any change.

The change would allow Las Vegas style casinos at the Miami Worldcenter in downtown Miami and the Fontainebleau Hotel in Miami Beach. The hotel was included as one of the sites that would be allowed to have full casino games under a draft constitutional amendment written by the attorneys for the political committee.

ADDED

While the success of such efforts will depend on a vote in 2010, now is the appropriate time to become a part of the existing conversations to ensure that our school system will receive the appropriate share of the revenues if the measure is supported.

As a result of recent legislative practices, a shift of public school funding away from Miami-Dade County Public Schools has occurred. Therefore, this District must be proactive and seek new revenue sources, and protect the interests of M-DCPS.

**ACTION PROPOSED BY
DR. MARTIN KARP:**

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

1. Create a task force that would focus on strengthening existing revenue streams and embarking on new projects, grants, partnerships or legislation that adds needed revenue to M-DCPS; and,
2. Become a part of the existing conversations about the funding formula for schools should voters decide to expand gambling in Miami-Dade County.

REVISED