

Dr. Martin Karp, School Board Member

SUBJECT: RESTORE STAFFING LEVELS FOR THE OFFICE OF INTERGOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS AND GRANTS ADMINISTRATION IN ORDER TO FACILITATE THE DISTRICT'S ABILITY TO ACCESS COMPETITIVE SUPPLEMENTAL GRANT FUNDING UNDER THE AMERICAN RECOVERY AND REINVESTMENT ACT

COMMITTEE: INSTRUCTIONAL EXCELLENCE AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

LINK TO DISTRICT STRATEGIC PLAN: RETURN OF INVESTMENT OF GRANT DOLLARS

During the past several years, the need for supplemental educational funding has been key to the continuation of critical services and programs. Due to the financial crisis facing the nation and the state, that need has grown. Last month, Congress passed the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) appropriating billions in competitive grant funds; there are more than \$5 billion of competitive grant funding available. The district must aggressively pursue these supplemental funding opportunities. In addition, the use of the funds as associated with the ARRA is going to be tied to an increased level of accountability.

Currently, the Office of Intergovernmental Affairs and Grants Administration (OIAGA) handles 195 different grant programs with a total value of over \$410 million in supplemental funding. The credit for the creation of the Grants Development unit in our district is due to the late Dr. Ingram who several years ago brought an item to establish a grants unit to seek supplemental funding for the District. As you may recall, just recently, the office lost three positions as a result of the "Transformation" in November 2008, due to the necessary budget reductions. However, I believe that in light of the funding now available through the ARRA, the increased levels of accountability associated with those grant funds, and the need to aggressively seek other supplemental funding sources, it is prudent to restore the staffing levels to OIAGA.

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

That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, approve the restoration of staffing levels for the Office of Intergovernmental Affairs and Grants Administration and add the following positions: two grant writers, and one coordinator II.