

Dr. Marta Pérez, Vice Chair

SUBJECT: SCHOOL SAFETY REPORT

COMMITTEE: INSTRUCTIONAL EXCELLENCE AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

LINK TO DISTRICT

STRATEGIC PLAN: IMPROVE SAFETY AND THE SCHOOL ENVIRONMENT

On February 21, 2008, I hosted a Board Member Conference for the Board to learn about the District's lockdown and safety procedures, discuss parental awareness of safety measures at our schools, and engage in conversation on ways to increase parental and community cooperation with the District. Our Interim Chief of Police, Mr. Charles Hurley, shared an informative presentation and answered questions. Although several Board members sent their assistants, it is unfortunate that none of my colleagues in office at the time participated in the discussion.

At the April 22, 2009 Board meeting, I asked from the dais for Chief Hurley to provide an update on the district's safety procedures as the nation remembered the 10th Anniversary of the tragedy at Columbine High School and more recently, the unfortunate death of a student in Broward County. The Chair interrupted Mr. Hurley, stating that I would need to present an agenda item for the Board to receive this information, or he would call me "out of order". Consequently, at the May 11, 2009 Board meeting, I proposed Agenda Item H-23 directing the Superintendent to provide an update on school safety activities, which the Board passed unanimously.

Unfortunately, last month we tragically lost a student at one of our high schools and therefore, this agenda item proposes that the Superintendent provide the Board with a report on the safety procedures in place so that our stakeholders are aware of the safeguards and ongoing initiatives to prevent and address violence in our schools.

The Superintendent recently asked for our entire community to take a stand against violence and make a commitment to social responsibility and shared ownership of this problem. We must, therefore, inform our community on the District's efforts in addressing this matter and educate our students and parents on effective ways to deal with violence.

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

That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, direct the Superintendent to provide the Board with a report on the safety procedures and ongoing initiatives to prevent and address violence in our schools, by the November 17, 2009 School Board Meeting.

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