

Office of School Board Members
Board Meeting of October 14, 2009

October 13, 2009

Dr. Marta Pérez, Vice Chair

SUBJECT: LOBBYISTS

COMMITTEE: INSTRUCTIONAL EXCELLENCE AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

LINK TO DISTRICT

**STRATEGIC PLAN: IMPROVE TRANSPARENCY OF DECISION-MAKING
THROUGHOUT THE DISTRICT**

Current School Board Rule sets forth the process for individuals to operate as lobbyists with the District. Currently, the Ethics Committee is reviewing the rule and associated registration form and will recommend changes that strengthen the process.

One area that is often cited as weak within our Board Rule is the lack of transparency in the relations lobbyists have with our gatekeepers and decision makers. Further, there is the question of oversight as to whether or not all lobbyists are properly registered. Since the Ethics Committee has proactively recognized the need to review the process and practices, the Board should take the opportunity to ask the Committee for recommendations regarding these problems. This item proposes that the Ethics Committee consider and discuss, at their next scheduled meeting, recommendations for a process whereby lobbyists disclose all potential conflicts of interest, including personal conflicts, recommend sanctions for failure to follow the Board Rule, and other such issues and measures related to this topic.

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

That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida request that the Ethics Committee consider and discuss, at their next scheduled meeting, recommending a process whereby lobbyists disclose all potential conflicts of interest and recommend possible sanctions for failure to follow the Board Rule.

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