

Mr. Renier Diaz de la Portilla, Board Member

SUBJECT: IMPROVING SAFETY AT THE SCHOOL-SITE LEVEL

COMMITTEE: SCHOOL SUPPORT ACCOUNTABILITY

LINK TO THE STRATEGIC PLAN: IMPROVE SAFETY AND THE SCHOOL ENVIRONMENT

Over the last year much of the District has undergone a review and realignment of personnel and functions resulting in efficiency and cost savings. In as much as the Board is responsible for the Auditor, the Civilian Investigative Unit and the Office of the Inspector General, these departments were not subjected to such a review. The time is appropriate to review these departments to determine if there is duplication of effort or practices which are wasteful of taxpayer dollars. Therefore, the Superintendent should conduct an efficiency review and report to the Board any recommendations for cost savings. The main purpose of this review would be to examine funding allocations for all operations in the abovementioned departments, as well as police, to assess how the District can better utilize existing resources to maximize security presence in schools. This review should include consideration of soliciting bids for services through a competitive process that could result in further cost-savings to the District.

Presently, the District spends approximately \$30 million in security each year, despite the fact that it only receives about \$10 million from the state for this purpose. The proposed review would help identify and address issues of inefficiency and duplication across these departments, with the end goal of increasing security presence at the school-site level and maximizing the use of funds. Any savings realized through realignment or consolidation of these investigative functions should then be re-directed to support school site safety initiatives.

One of the more immediate ways in which savings could be put back into schools would be to increase the presence of security and police officers at the school-site level. In doing so, it is imperative that the District have a police officer assigned and present at every high school.

Replacement
H-17

ACTION PROPOSED BY

MR. RENIER DIAZ DE LA PORTILLA:

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

1. Provide a report to the Board including:
 - a. Allocation of funds to all District security, police, and investigative units/ departments (including those which report directly to the Board);
 - b. A detailed review and assessment of the efficiency of the operations of all security, police, and investigative units/ departments (including those which report directly to the Board);
 - c. A comprehensive proposal with recommendations identifying potentially duplicative non-school-site functions that could be consolidated, or solicited for bids, to enable the District to have one police officer in every high school and fund other safety initiatives.

2. Provide said report and recommendations to the Board at its December 9, 2009 Board Meeting.