

Dr. Marta Pérez, Vice Chair

SUBJECT: GOOD SAMARITAN

**COMMITTEE: INSTRUCTIONAL EXCELLENCE AND COMMUNITY
ENGAGEMENT**

LINK TO DISTRICT

STRATEGIC PLAN: IMPROVE SAFETY AND THE SCHOOL ENVIRONMENT

Increasingly, we hear reports about young people who are desensitized to violence. Besides the recent tragedies at our own School District, a few days ago we heard about a young woman at a school dance in California who was raped by as many as 10 boys while a group of approximately 20 students either watched passively or took cell phone pictures of the calamity. The list of incidents is long, and perhaps soon, not only will students become apathetic about violence, failure to sound alarms in order to avoid the violence may become the standard, too.

Our students have rights, but they also have responsibilities. These include being good citizens and watching out for the well being of their classmates and others in the community.

We are often asked about what the district does to encourage good character, civics and values. Although we have our share of courses, many times we are not successful in instilling the values of a "Good Samaritan."

Bullies are all too often rewarded for their behavior because they can intimidate not only their victims, but the passive onlookers as well. We hear from students who say that they would never "snitch" even if it means protecting the life or well-being of a victim.

ACTION PROPOSED BY

DR. MARTA PÉREZ: That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, ask the Ethics Committee to look into and report to the board on actions to make students aware of their responsibility to their classmates, their community and those in need. These recommendations should help us to encourage a culture of "the Good Samaritan" at our School District. They may include, but are not limited to, that we adopt a "code of student responsibilities," a month dedicated to values, forums, and any other strategies and/or policies that may be helpful to achieve our goals. The Ethics Committee should report to the board no later than March, 2010.