

Dr. Martin Karp, Board Member

**SUBJECT:                   REQUEST THAT THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY AUTHORIZE THE SUPERINTENDENT TO EXPLORE DEVELOPING AN ACTIVE (ACTIVE CITIZENS TEACHING INDIVIDUALS VALUABLE EXPERTISE) VOLUNTEER PROGRAM FOR OUR RETIRED RESIDENTS**

**COMMITTEE:               INSTRUCTIONAL EXCELLENCE AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT**

**LINK TO STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK:               STUDENT, PARENT, AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT**

At a recent School Board retreat, a number of budget savings measures were presented by staff including reductions in operations and maintenance. The deteriorating conditions for the School District have become more severe since that retreat with the introduction of the Governor's budget, which currently proposes to slash public school education funding by 10 percent.

While a number of scenarios and possibilities may emerge prior to the conclusion of this year's Legislative Session in Tallahassee, this does not preclude our District from making a strong effort to attract some of our most valuable resources, residents who are retired and living in Miami-Dade.

Developing an ACTIVE (Active Citizens Teaching Individuals Valuable Expertise) volunteer program would enable retired individuals to participate in various educational and maintenance related projects. They could lend their expertise in the classroom where cuts have been made, and share valuable insight in fundraising, maintenance and public relations.

Retired residents often ask about their connection to Miami-Dade County Public Schools. A program such as ACTIVE could provide our residents with an opportunity to become more involved in our public schools and learn why public education is important to them and this community.

In a recent Herald article, the case for reaching out to our retired community is made as "baby boomers volunteer at higher rates than any other age group. About 33 percent of all boomers volunteer on a regular basis." The M-DCPS Division of Retirement reports that since 1986 there are 10,559 retired teachers and 1,391 retired administrators, so a considerable pool of valuable resources exists from our own ranks.

In another Herald article *Across the Generations*, numerous examples were cited showing older workers caring for young children, and how both generations benefited.

While intergenerational programs are not new, there are far too few venues for different generations to work and interact with each other. Studies have found “that children who participate in intergenerational programs are up to nine months ahead of their peers in social development. Students gain an opportunity to develop a great respect for people of a certain age, and benefit from the wisdom of their years and experience. In turn, such programs give seniors ‘a sense of purpose.’”

**ACTION PROPOSED BY**

**DR. MARTIN KARP:** That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida directs the Superintendent to explore the feasibility of developing a volunteer program with our retired residents for the benefit of our district and community.