

Dr. Dorothy Bendross-Mindingall, Board Member

SUBJECT: INTERVENE SCHOOLS

COMMITTEE: SCHOOL SUPPORT ACCOUNTABILITY

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

The philosophy that "it takes a village to raise a child" must serve as the foundation for any efforts for educational improvement. The involvement of communities in schools creates a 'buy-in' for citizens who do not have a direct connection to schools and indicates to students that the community is interested in their success. This applies doubly for schools categorized as intervene schools by the Florida Department of Education.

The possible closure of Miami Central and Miami Edison Senior High Schools due to their inability to meet prescribed goals as intervene schools incited a broad cross-section of community members to unite in support of keeping the schools open. They are owed our commendation for their efforts. It is important that we take advantage of the momentum created by the attention given to this issue.

Many community members lamented that they only became aware of the status of the schools because of the imminence of their closure, and they received much of that information through media outlets. The district has a responsibility to keep the community informed about educational developments. We are in the business of education and at that mission should apply to educating stakeholders as well as students. Sustained community involvement will help avoid a disquieting situation that we can avert through public input.

The School Board and community are greatly disadvantaged when we are reactive to decisions made outside of the school district. Broader review and monitoring, and regular reporting of school progress to the Board and community will foster a proactive environment and thereby create a hedge against exigencies. Reporting school progress at School Board meetings is a very effective way of keeping stakeholders informed.

Each school has an EESAC and the stipulations of the approved appeals require increased monitoring, but we must also elicit more participation from the community to increase the probability of success in reaching goals. To achieve that objective the role and activity of the ETO Task Force should be reviewed and recommendations made based thereon. Specifically, the mechanisms for communication need assessment so that we can ensure proliferation of the ETO's efforts progress.

} Revised

**Revised
Good Cause
H-23**

Intervene status is similar to 'Educational Intensive Care' and heightened vigilance is necessary for sustained improvement. The expected result of the communications assessment is plan of action that will increase the task force's visibility and the community's awareness of their role in the school improvement process. We also need to review the task force's organization of regularly scheduled workshops and meetings to inform the community about the interpretation of data related to school progress, give a deeper overview of the FCAT and school grades, and provide updates on school progress.

} Revised

A part of the approval of the appeal is the development of a School Improvement Plan (SIP) to address deficiencies and identify the planned goals and strategies to improve performance. However, research from the Mass Insight's Turnaround Challenge on school improvement, turnaround, and transformation clearly indicates that successful and sustainable efforts usually take between three and five years. A three-year plan was prepared as a requirement of the School Improvement Grant (SIG) to ETO schools. This plan needs to be translated into a "user-friendly" format that is easy to read and understand by the public.

} Revised

There is a good cause for this item due to the completion of the SIP prior to the start of the new school year. The August 3 meeting of the School Board is the last regular meeting prior to the start of the school year and implementation of the SIP, also.

ACTION PROPOSED BY

DR. DOROTHY BENDROSS-MINDINGALL: That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, direct the Superintendent to do the following, as it relates to each intervene school:

1. re-format the SIG 3-year plan into a 'user-friendly' format and inform stakeholders of said plan.
2. assess the role of the ETO Task Force with the goal of increasing the board's efficacy and community participation.
3. provide monthly reports on the progress of improvement plans at School Board meetings.

} Revised