

Mr. Renier Diaz de la Portilla, Board Member

**SUBJECT:                   FORMATION OF INDEPENDENT BOND OVERSIGHT  
COMMITTEE**

**COMMITTEE:               INNOVATION, EFFICIENCY, AND GOVERNMENTAL  
RELATIONS**

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

As the day for the district's bond referendum approaches, it is important that as a Board we take all the appropriate steps to ensure that what is being promised to voters is accounted for in a fair and transparent manner. As such, the importance of the creation of an independent oversight committee - as suggested by the Superintendent - cannot be understated.

In recent years, both the Orange and Palm Beach county school districts have put before the voters proposals for half-penny sales taxes to help fund school construction, maintenance, and technology upgrades. In the process, both have utilized independent oversight committees to review and approve proposed projects and the expenditure of available funds. In the case of the Orange County School District, the funds raised as a result of their 2002 half-cent tax referendum were overseen by an independent body known as the Citizens Construction Oversight and Value Engineering Committee (COVE). The committee was made up of volunteers with expertise in construction, engineering, finance and auditing – none of whom did business with the district. (<https://www.ocps.net/fa/cove/>)

Similarly, in 1998, the School Board of Palm Beach County created the Independent Sales Surtax Oversight Committee (ISSOC) months before a half-penny sales-tax increase proposal made it before the voters. The committee was made up of business and community leaders and remained in place until all the proceeds of the referendum had been expended and accounted for. The ISSOC was also tasked with the review and approval all project changes requested by the school district.

The purpose of this item is to ensure the creation of an Independent Bond Oversight Committee, no later than November 30, 2012, in order to maintain full transparency in this process as it goes to the voters next month, with the composition, function and lifespan of such committee to be discussed in greater detail by the School Board and Superintendent during the October 3, 2012 committee meeting.

**ACTION PROPOSED BY**

**MR. RENIER DIAZ DE LA PORTILLA:** That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, direct the Superintendent to facilitate the creation of an Independent Bond Oversight Committee (IBOC), should the voters approve the bond referendum in the November 6th election, to become effective no later than November 30, 2012.