

April 28, 1999

Dr. Robert B. Ingram, Member

**SUBJECT: ESTABLISH AN AD-HOC COMMITTEE FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF A COMPREHENSIVE PLAN FOR SCHOOL SAFETY, VIOLENCE PREVENTION, AND THE PROGRAMMATIC PLACEMENT OF JUVENILE OFFENDERS WHO ARE STUDENTS IN MIAMI-DADE COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS (M-DCPS)**

**STRATEGIC PLANNING GOALS: II - STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT/PREPARATION FOR POST SECONDARY EXPERIENCES  
IX - COMMUNITY/HOME/PARENT/SCHOOL/  
BUSINESS PARTNERSHIPS**

Authorization is requested to establish an ad-hoc committee for the development of a comprehensive plan for school safety, violence prevention, and the programmatic placement of juvenile offenders who are students in the Miami-Dade County Public Schools (M-DCPS). School discipline is of increasing districtwide concern, not only due to increases in the number and severity of violent acts, but also because of recent catastrophic crimes committed at school by young offenders around the nation. There can be little doubt that violations of disciplinary policies continue to grow, as evidenced by M-DCPS expulsion recommendations over the last few years.

The most severe violations of the *Code of Student Conduct* often are crimes which are punishable by law. While such infractions might result in confinement for adults, juvenile offenders who are expelled from regular and adult M-DCPS programs, for all or part of their tenure in the school system, are enrolled in alternative programs. Due to the severity of many Group VI violations of the *Code*, it is requested that a committee research the viability of new programming while reexamining existing procedures. This proposed committee will be comprised of M-DCPS staff, United Teachers of Dade (UTD) and PTA/PTSA representatives, law enforcement personnel, and legal and child welfare experts. Subsequent to School Board approval of the committee concept, a roster of potential committee members will be sought from Board members and district staff.

The committee's charge will include recommendations which potentially could effect changes in the Florida Legislature, as well as M-DCPS disciplinary policies. Committee members will be asked to suggest strategies for conflict resolution training, counseling, proactive and reactive disciplinary procedures, as well as in-service training for staff members. The committee's recommendations will be brought back to the Board for its consideration by September, 1999.

**ACTION PROPOSED BY  
DR. ROBERT B. INGRAM:**

That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, direct the Superintendent to establish an ad-hoc committee for the development of a comprehensive plan for school safety, violence prevention, and the programmatic placement of juvenile offenders who are students in the Miami-Dade County Public Schools.

No additional funding is required to establish this committee.

RBI:mjc