

May 2, 2007

Dr. Robert B. Ingram, Member

**SUBJECT: REQUEST AUTHORIZATION FOR THE SUPERINTENDENT TO
EXPLORE CONTRACTING WITH THE MARTIN LUTHER KING
JR. INSTITUTE FOR NON VIOLENCE TO INSTRUCT OUR
STUDENTS' TO RESOLVE CONFLICTS WITHOUT USING
VIOLENCE**

**COMMITTEE: INSTRUCTIONAL EXCELLENCE AND COMMUNITY
ENGAGEMENT**

**LINK TO DISTRICT
STRATEGIC PLAN: EXPAND IMPLEMENTATION OF EDUCATION PROGRAMS
AIMED AT REDUCING VIOLENCE IN ALL SCHOOLS.**

A PROPOSAL relating to the Florida Martin Luther King, Jr. Institute for Nonviolence.

In view of the continued school violence across our nation the Miami Dade County School Board declares that an institution embodying the heritage, ideals, and concerns of the people of the Miami Dade County Schools for peace and social justice as exemplified by the philosophy and nonviolent leadership of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. is an appropriate response to the significant public need for the state to develop methods, in addition to current law enforcement responses to curb the use of violence and encourage the nonviolent management of social conflict.

The Miami Dade County Schools further declares that the people throughout our county, state and indeed the United States fear violence and deplore the social injustice that can give rise to violence.

Our students, teachers and staff are experiencing increasing hostilities stemming from rapid social change and real and perceived conflicts over group and individual interests and they may be disadvantaged by a lack of problem-solving skills for redressing these social conflicts.

In addition our schools experiencing increased costs of liability due to litigations of law enforcement and other personnel due to excessive use of force and an institution would be a cost-effective measure to reduce these litigations.

Not only that, potentially destructive conflicts between different societal groups and interests can be resolved constructively and effectively through the use of nonviolent methods as were advocated and exemplified by the life of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

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

That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, authorizes the Superintendent be directed :

1. To explore contracting with the Martin Luther King, Jr. Institute for Nonviolence to instruct our students in nonviolent processes for conflict resolution and to develop new techniques to promote nonviolent solutions to economic political, social, and cultural conflicts in our schools.
2. Such activities will be designed to be strengthened by our school system through research, education and training and the provision of information services with respect to nonviolent conflict resolution techniques.
3. To accomplish these public purposes of resolving conflicts among individuals and groups of individuals. An investment in the institute would be an investment in human resources that will not cost but great dividend in saving lives.
4. The costs associated with this item would be the time necessary for staff to explore contracting with the Martin Luther King Jr. Institute for non-violence, which is approximately 2 hours @ \$38 per hour, a total of \$76.