


**MEMORANDUM**

**April 11, 2011**

**TO:** The Honorable Chair and Members of The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida

**FROM:** Alberto M. Carvalho, Superintendent of Schools 

**SUBJECT: LEGISLATIVE UPDATE – SCHOOL BOARD GOVERNANCE**

This afternoon SB 778, filed by Senator Diaz de la Portilla, pertaining to District School Membership, has been placed on the agenda for this week's Senate Education Pre-K-12 Committee, scheduled for Thursday, April 14, 2011. The Board's lobbying team has been assigned members of the committee and directed to speak to them regarding the Board's position on the bill.

Last week, on April 5, 2011, CS/CS/HB 307 filed by Representative Logan, relating to the modification of the current governance structure for The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, passed its last committee of reference in the House Education Committee. The Education Committee voted to pass the bill by a vote of 11 to 7 with the following members voting yes: Proctor, Fresen, O'Toole, Stargel, Coley, Davis, Adkins, Bileca, Brandes, Ingram, and Smith and the following Representatives voting no: Stafford, Bullard, Clarke-Reed, Reed, Watson, Fullwood, and Tobia. The Education Committee voted in favor of passage of HB 307, along party lines, except for Representative Tobia, a Republican, voting in opposition of the bill.

As currently drafted, the legislation would change this School Board's governance structure from a 9 single-member district School Board to 7 single-member districts with 2 at-large seats. In addition, the legislation would make the at-large members chair and vice-chair for the length of their terms. This change of policy would not allow the Board to select their leadership and would further limit the opportunity of other members on the Board to seek leadership roles. The bill would create a two-fold governance structure within the board, that of the 7 single-member districts and that of the 2 at-large members.

Presently, CS/CS/HB 307 is pending placement on the Special Order Calendar by the Rules Committee in the House in order to be heard on the floor of the House.

If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact Ms. Iraida R. Mendez-Cartaya, Assistant Superintendent, Office of Intergovernmental Affairs, Grants Administration, and Community Engagement, at 305-995-1497.

AMC:ldb  
M1005

cc: School Board Attorney  
Superintendent's Cabinet