

Dr. Perez made the following announcements:

- Miami Coral Park Senior High School's Engineering Magnet Program received the community engagement award from FIU. This is an award that embodies the spirit of engagement expressed by the Carnegie Foundation and FIU.
- South Miami Senior High School's band has been invited, because of their superior ratings, to the Heritage Festival of America next month in Atlanta.
- Last month, she attended another superb production at the Roxie Theatre Group of Damn Yankees.

**BOARD MEMBER
ANNOUNCE-
MENTS – CONT'D.**

Dr. Perez also expressed concerns about students who were on the verge of failing math classes on Florida Virtual Schools. She urged administration to scrutinize this and take steps for next school year as well. The Superintendent and a member of staff responded to Dr. Perez's concerns.

She also asked questions about the cost of the district's marketing strategy, as the recently-received report did not indicate the cost.

Ms. Hantman made the following announcements:

- Last month, on February 15 and 16, 2011, the United States Department of Education Secretary Arne Duncan invited the Superintendent, the Board Chair, and Ms. Karen Aronowitz, United Teachers of Dade, to Denver Colorado to the conference "Advancing Student Achievement Through Labor-Management Collaboration." During that conference, she was approached by various superintendents and others from across the United States who congratulated this district on what it has been able to accomplish in spite of its difficult financial situation. This conference was subsidized by the United States Department of Education with no cost to the district.
- On Thursday, March 3rd, students from Palm Springs Middle School had the opportunity to attend the Miami Heat vs. the Orlando Magic basketball game at the American Airlines Arena. Prior to the game, the students watched the pre-game warm up and met some of the basketball players. Thanks and appreciation to the Office Depot and the Miami Heat for sponsoring the students and their chaperones to the games.

In response to Ms. Hantman's questions about the process used for the Board's priority list of State Legislative programs, Ms. Mendez Cartaya explained that staff meets with all members of the Miami-Dade Delegation and present them the Board's adopted legislative program. The House members have limited bill slots, and have only six bill slots that they can present. That limits the number of each members' issues that they can file as legislation.

A-1 – Superintendent's Informational Reports to The Board on Selected Topics

- **Recognition of Archbishop Thomas Wenski**

Superintendent Carvalho announced that Archbishop Thomas Wenski of the Archdiocese of Miami would be honoring the

**114,746
SUPT.'S INFOR-
MATIONAL RE-
PORTS**

Board with his presence at today's meeting. He said that Archbishop Wenski, an outstanding religious leader who leads his church through very difficult times, is a public leader who, through his words of wisdom and understanding, has helped heal the wounds that have divided this community for such a long time. He is the ideal public servant, especially for those who are destitute and who do not have anyone to represent them.

Continuing, the Superintendent said that from Archbishop Wenski's days at St. John Vianney Seminary, to his ordainment as a priest by the Archdiocese of Miami, to his present position as Archbishop, his entire life has been dedicated to his church and to the needy in this society. As director of Catholic Charities during the 1990s, Archbishop Wenski was able to forge collaborative efforts to help out those in need traveling to countries on various occasions to coordinate humanitarian relief efforts.

SUPT.'S INFORMATIONAL REPORTS – CONT'D.

During the aftermath of Hurricane Lily, Archbishop Wenski spearheaded a relief operation that delivered over 150,000 pounds of food to Caritas Cuba for distribution. This was the first time that Cubans in Miami were participants in a collective humanitarian effort directed at their former homeland. Similar relief efforts were also directed to Haiti, the Dominican Republic, and countries of Central America and Colombia.

In addition to his service with his church, Archbishop Wenski also has served on a number of community and civic organizations, including Miami-Dade County's Homeless Trust, the Coordinating Council of Broward. In 2001, then Governor Bush appointed him to the Florida Council on Homelessness as well as the Governor's Task Force on Haiti. In 2009, Archbishop Wenski was elected to a four-year term on the Board of Trustees of The Catholic University of America.

The Superintendent then called forward the Archbishop to be honored and recognized by the Board and its audience.

- **Changes to School Accountability and Student Achievement Measures**

After Superintendent Carvalho's opening remarks about the changes that are forthcoming and the potential impact on student and school performance, he called forward Ms. Millie Fornell and Ms. Gisela Feild to provide a report to the Board regarding same. [An audio recording of this report is on file with the official records of this meeting in the Office of Recording Secretary.]

Ms. Feild informed the Board that there are three major issues to be addressed regarding individual student assessment: the new FCAT; introduction of the End of Course exams; and computer-based assessment in the senior high schools for both the graduation test and the End of Course.

Ms. Fornell took the Board step by step through the impact of New Generation Sunshine State Standards in reading; impact

the new FCAT 2.0 in reading; and impact of the New Generation Sunshine Standards in math.

Ms. Feild then discussed with the Board the End of Course Computer-Based testing and what it would entail. In summary, the intent is that within the next three to four years, the majority of district students at all levels will be taking part, if not all, of their assessments on the FCAT online as computer-based.

SUPT.'S INFORMATIONAL REPORTS – CONT'D.

Next, Ms. Feild explained how these changes would affect school accountability with regards to proficiency and gains component on the school grades in reading and math. Senate Bill 1908 changed the high school accountability components; required that high schools have only 50 percent of their school grade based on the FCAT; and the other 50 percent based on components which incorporate graduation rates, enrollment in accelerated courses, postsecondary readiness as well as standardized assessments like the SAT, ACT college board exams.

Additionally, Senate Bill 4 brought additional revisions to the school performance grades for this year. The Bill discusses the fact that there will have to be changes in the learning gains to accommodate all of the new End of Course assessments that are being taken this year: Algebra and forthcoming Geometry.

After citing the changes for this year, Ms. Feild informed the Board that there are some additional bills and/or changes that are being proposed which could have a huge impact on the district. One of the critical components being composed to take affect starting in 2011-2012, is what the state refers to as an automatic trigger, about which Ms. Feild explained extensively.

Following a summation and closing remarks by Superintendent Carvalho, members of the Board engaged in extensive discussion of this report.

[Note: Dr. Karp asked that more of his comments be included in the minutes under the Superintendent's A-1 reports.]

Dr. Karp raised concerns about how the rules keep changing, and given those changes whether school letter grades could be assigned with any fidelity. Ms. Gisela Feild indicated that she and Mr. Carvalho asked that changes be introduced gradually and that consideration be given to the idea of waiting until the system was more stable. Adding all the components at one time will be difficult from a research perspective, whether the District increases or decreases, it will be difficult to explain which particular indicator caused a decrease, whether it was a computer-based testing; whether it was the new Sunshine State Standards to the Next Generation; whether it is the removal of open-ended questions; whether it's the fact that we're testing in two days for reading. There are a huge number of differences that we will never really know what caused the impact, either both positively or negatively.

Dr. Karp asked whether the District was prepared for the math FCAT on the computer. Ms. Feild replied that some infrastructure tests have been performed with success. The labs are set up, the testers have been trained, students have experienced this, and the computer-based compo-

ment should work. There is research that shows there is minimal difference in the performance on computerized versus non-computerized.

Dr. Karp indicated this discussion is not about complaining or showing an unwillingness to adjust and change, but an opportunity to express a need for an honest conversation about what is valid and reliable and whether these evaluations of our schools will be based on sound research practices. Dr. Karp referred to three schools that were denied appeals for higher letter grades after a review of the data and asked how the District can be successful in appeal efforts. Ms. Feild said additional edit reports have been introduced.

SUPT.'S INFORMATIONAL REPORTS – CONT'D.

Mr. Alan Rigerman appeared before the Board to address the Superintendent's Reports to the Board.

It was Dr. Holloway's opinion that the district should be reporting on ways to overcome these changes instead of being concerned with the impact of the changes.

Dr. Perez raised questions with staff about what are the pedagogical basis the state uses when explaining these changes. She also raised questions and expressed concerns about the changes and their impact.

Ms. Field informed the Board that the Superintendent had drafted a memo to the Commissioner of Education as part of the LPAC [Language Proficiency Assessment Committee]. One of the requests was for the trigger to be held off until the district had seen the new accountability system and had stability.

The Superintendent then spoke at great length about the state's use of a trigger and the impact of same. He stressed that the district has asked that the manner in which some of these changes are being proposed be further explained. Additionally, he said that he is advocating for a change or a slowing down of that change until such time as the district understands the process a little better.

Dr. Perez then asked about Pearson, the company that would be doing the grading, and the reasons for changing the writing to one grader.

Mr. Diaz de la Portilla agreed with Dr. Holloway's sentiments, and said he was completely in favor of raising the bar. He then requested, and received further explanations from staff about the new teaching standards and how these new changes would affect their evaluation. Mr. Diaz de la Portilla spoke at length about the concordant scores as related to SAT vs. FCAT.

Dr. Karp expressed concern about the start of FCAT testing on Monday and listed three advantages to beginning the test on Tuesday. He asked that the Tuesday start date be considered for the future. Dr. Karp maintained that the District does not have to embrace and support all new initiatives without questioning the impact of such programs and that legislation does not always incorporate what the research shows to be effective.

Ms. Helen B. Williams appeared before the Board to address the Superintendent's reports.