

Association for the State of Florida filed an Amicus Curiae and was scheduled to be heard on Tuesday, October 9, 2007. The Supreme Court revised its decision prior to that hearing and left school boards harmless. She publicly thanked the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court for this decision. Continuing, she thanked the attorneys at the Florida School Boards Association, and the governor for providing support.

Mr. Wexelbaum announced that a New World School of the Arts student, Elliot McCarthy, President of District's Student Government Association, received a service award from President Bush during his visit to Miami. The award was for Mr. McCarthy's service and contribution to the community.

Mr. Diaz de la Portilla shared an article printed in *USA Today*, on October 1, 2007, entitled Cities Turning off Plans for WI-FI. He read the article in its entirety to the Board.

The Chair took this time to recognize and welcome City of Miami Mayor Manny Diaz, who was in attendance at today's Board meeting.

Upon motion duly made and seconded, the Board voted to move Agenda Item **A-1** to the floor at this time.

**MOVED AGENDA ITEM
A-1 TO THE FLOOR**

A-1 - SUPERINTENDENT'S INFORMATIONAL REPORTS TO THE BOARD ON SELECTED TOPICS

**110,670
HEARD THE SUPERIN-
TENDENT'S INFORMA-
TIONAL REPORTS ON
SELECTED TOPICS**

- "Elevate Miami"

Dr. Crew explained the reason this item was brought before the Board for discussion. He said that it was appropriate that some of the conversation this evening was focused on the issue of student behavior, and acknowledging that that behavior has vastly become a major part of the conversation nationwide, as it relates to standards. This country was struggling with the question overall of what cities can do, what municipal government can do, what the business community can do, to begin the process of introducing and/or supporting the growth of real life standards that ultimately speak to students ability to function in a larger world. Further, he said that the District had been partnering with the Mayor and staff over the course of several months as a part of the compact. That partnering has resulted in something that was being called the "Rites to Passage."

A Rites of Passage that will like to be modeled after a structured way by which to acknowledge certain milestones and points in students' lives when, according to their age, behavior, and active participation in their own lives, they have been able to pass that milestone. Continuing, he said that a curriculum to do this was built, and members of staff had been in the process of really sort of building what this would look like. He said that the goal here was really in elevating Miami to not only create a new standard, but to also avoid a loss of life that comes with making really bad decisions. Subsequently, he introduced Mayor Diaz, who later addressed this issue.

Mr. Carvalho continued the introduction of this item, and shared a brief video that he felt clearly demonstrated the transition that the students will go through; embracing culture, life skills technology, and work readiness at specific times in their lives. In closing, he recognized the efforts of several staff members.

Before addressing the Board regarding this item, Mayor Diaz advised the Board that the District could count on the City of Miami to help when it was ready to plan a parade for the National Champions of Miami Northwestern Senior High School. Subsequently, he expressed excitement about the opportunity, and continued to explain how the program was implemented, and its importance.

The following speakers appeared before the Board to address this recommendation:

Ms. Helen B. Williams, The Rilya Wilson Advocacy Project, Inc.; Ms. Karen Aronowitz, United Teachers of Dade; and Ms. Susan Kairalla.

Dr. Perez took this time to thank Mayor Diaz, and expressed excitement for the proposition. She then informed the Mayor that an item was passed for all students to receive a laptop, and that a company called Bright Star was contracted to do the same. She said that based on those resources she felt it was a wonderful thing to try and bring the students, who do not have the opportunity to have computers, to all have computers at home. In closing, she felt that there was a challenge in education to make sure that the students stay up with technology, but at the same time learn to read, write, and do math, because it would be needed in the future.

Mr. Barrera told that Mayor that he was again leading and not following, for being the first to work with this District in the education compact. In closing, he congratulated the Mayor for his vision, and hoped that this would take life like the compacts did, and if successful, the other six communities with compacts will bring Elevate Miami to their cities.

See Page 46 for the continuation of Agenda Item A-1.

Upon motion duly made and seconded, the Board voted to move Agenda Item H-2 to the floor for discussion, at this time.

**MOVED AGENDA ITEM
H-2 TO THE FLOOR**

H-2

Mr. Agustin J. Barrera, School Board Chair, proposed that The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida,:

1. approve the terms and conditions of the proposed Interlocal Agreement with Miami-Dade County for the provision of Inspector General services by the County's Office of the Inspector General, including setting a proposed initial budget amount for the costs of the Agreement;
- ~~2. authorize the Board Chair to further negotiate on behalf of the~~

**110,770
APPROVED THE TERMS
AND CONDITIONS OF THE
PROPOSED INTERLOCAL
AGREEMENT WITH MI-
AMI-DADE COUNTY –
INSPECTOR GENERAL**