

NEWS

AS PROPOSED BY SCHOOL BOARD MEMBER PERLA TABARES HANTMAN, THE SCHOOL BOARD VOTES TO CODIFY THE DISTRICT'S BUDGET PROCESS

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NEWS RELEASE FROM PERLA TABARES HANTMAN

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As proposed by District 4 Board Member Perla Tabares Hantman, the School Board unanimously voted to have the Superintendent and Interim Board Attorney begin rulemaking procedures to codify District's budget process.

"One of the most important duties of the Miami-Dade County School Board is to approve the District's budget," noted Ms. Hantman. "We rely on the accuracy of the figures and calculations presented to them by the administration."

In recent months, it has become apparent that the District ended fiscal year 2007-2008 in worse economic shape than the Board was led to believe. This was due to the inaccuracy of the figures and calculations and a series of technical and human errors.

The budget process now will be codified and incorporated into the District's Board Rules to include:

- best practices,
- strategies for checks and balances within the different departments,
- firm dates of when the budget has to be submitted to the State, and
- any other steps deemed essential in the process.

These changes will help to produce an accurate and ethical presentation of the budget for the Board's approval and subsequent submission to the Florida Department of Education.

Additionally, an audit type report will be submitted at the March 18, 2009 School Board meeting delineating the technical and human errors in guiding the financial operations that contributed to the District's current financial situation, which will serve as a referenced deterrent for the future.

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