



Perla Tabares Hantman, Chair

The School Board of Miami-Dade County

305-995-1334
PHantman@dadeschools.net
1450 N.E. 2nd Avenue, Suite 700
Miami, FL 33132

Issue 20 – December 2012

MIAMI-DADE COUNTY VOTERS APPROVE SCHOOL BOND REFERENDUM

Miami-Dade County voters (nearly 69%) overwhelmingly supported the Miami-Dade County School Board's \$1.2 billion General Obligation (GO) Bond referendum November 6th, paving the way to modernize and construct schools throughout the district, including technology upgrades at all schools.

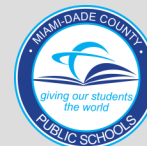
Approval of the GO Bond creates a sustainable long-term solution, providing 21st Century Schools for all Miami-Dade students. The proposed bond issue will have minimal impact on the typical homeowner, because they will be phased in as 1988 GOS are being paid off. Construction costs are significantly lower than their peak, and interest rates are at historical lows.

Since recent capital funding has mostly gone to provide new schools or additions, the needs of older schools can now be addressed. Almost half of the District's school buildings are over 40 years old, and over one third are more than 50 years old. The downturn in the real estate market over the last five years and the decrease in state capital funding have compounded the capital-funding shortfall.

The Bonds will help enhance the safety and security of school buildings; renovate or upgrade every school; guarantee technology equity across all schools; seek stakeholder input while minimizing the burden to taxpayers; promote greater public/private partnerships; provide economic development and employment opportunities to our community; and provide transparency and confidence with citizen advisory and oversight committees to ensure timely and equitable distribution of projects.



Election Watch Party at
Miami Senior High School



Upcoming Dates to Note:

School Board Meeting
December 5, 2012

Winter Recess
December 24, 2012 -
January 4, 2013

HAPPY HOLIDAYS!



Westland Hialeah Senior High School students took a pledge to remain tobacco free during the American Cancer Society's annual "Great American Smokeout."

District 4 School Highlights

- **John G. DuPuis Elementary School** has been awarded a grant from The Education Fund. This initiative has been put in place in order to use edible gardens as outdoor learning laboratories for the entire school year in all subject areas. This allows students and families to learn about nutrition and practice healthy eating.
- **Lawton Chiles Middle School** had the distinct pleasure of having Mr. William Levy visit the school during Hispanic Heritage Month. Mr. Levy is dedicated to motivating students and strongly believes that getting an education is the ticket to success. During his visit, he had the opportunity to visit classrooms and share positive experiences that led him to his success as an actor.
- **Hialeah Senior High School**—Three seniors have been identified as Posse Foundation (founded in 1989, Posse identifies public high school students with extraordinary academic and leadership potential) finalists out of over 1000 M-DCPS students. Final interviews and winners will be announced in early December. If selected as winners, these students will receive full scholarships to selected universities.
- **District 4 Schools** participated in the Town of Miami Lakes Veteran's Day Parade.

