**Greetings to all of the South Central Region!**

**Happy Thanksgiving to you all!**

All of us from Miami Dade County Council PTA/PTSA send you warm greetings for the holiday, and wishes that you enjoy the day with your families and friends and count each and every one of your many blessings!

I know that I count PTA, all of it's many activities and friends, as a huge blessing in my life.

I am contacting you today to ask that you find some time in your busy week to get a very important message out to all of your parents, be it by email, or your school's Connect Ed, web site announcement or flyers home with your children.

On Tuesday, November 29th, our Superintendent of Schools, Alberto Carvalho will be holding a very important Town Hall meeting, **"Looking Ahead 20112-2013"** to discuss the upcoming budget and it's very serious shortfall for the next school year.

Mr. Carvalho has aptly performed the 3 year Miami Miracle, as it's often called, in keeping schools afloat, and even initiating some incredible new programs...........but we have hit an end. We are about to lose a lot more money.

Local Property tax values are expected to go down, affecting school funding.

Medical Insurance payments are on the continued rise.

There is no money for capital improvements to our facilities. Did you know that the State of Florida gave every single million of dollars to charter schools for property maintenance in this last year and traditional public schools received **ZERO** dollars?

The money we receive for what is called the Base Student Allocation has dropped to the same level of money we received in 2001.

There will be a $1.5-$2 billion dollar short fall for the state, translating to a $200-$300 million budget reduction to Miami Dade Public Schools for the 2012-2013 school year.

Our children are going to start to feel this in the classroom.

**World Languages?**

**Art?**

**Music?**

**Sports?**

**Counselors?**

**Transportation?**

**Magnet Programs?**

**From where will the money be lost?**

**We need ALL PARENTS to be Aware and Get Involved.**

The time is **NOW** to reach our to our elected representatives in Tallahassee and tell them:

**NO MORE CUTS TO PUBLIC EDUCATION K-12**.

Even **IF** there are **NO CUTS,** and our money allocations are 'held harmless', giving us this years amount of money again, the rise in expenses will still require major adjustments, and this is going to start happening in our classrooms.

Please, Presidents and Principals............**Rally your Parents.** Let them know now of this

**Town Hall Meeting on the Budget** and ask them to come and fill the auditorium at

**South Miami Senior High School**

**6856 SW 53 Street, Miami, Florida 33155**

**Tuesday, November 29th at 6:30 pm.**

We urge you to get this out to your parents now...ask them to plan now to attend.

I will send one more follow up email, that will include information on finding your individual elected representatives for your area to contact.

Please go to work today on your plan to get this out to the parents to attend.

We need to work, and act together for the continued future and success of our children's education.

**Parent's Involvement IS the Key to Success.**

Should you have any questions, do not hesitate to contact me, via email, or my phone number listed below.

**We need your help. We look forward to seeing you the evening of Tuesday, November 29th.**

***Sharon Watson,*South Central Region Coordinator
Miami-Dade County Council *PTA/PTSA*** *every***child*.****one***voice.**® *786.512.6680* **Use Facebook?
\*Like\* *swatsonpta* for occasional FB updates!**[*Miami-Dade County Council of PTAs/PTSAs - Home*](https://portal-mail.dadeschools.net/exchweb/bin/redir.asp?URL=http://dccptaptsa.org/)