

# THE MIAMI TIMES

November 13-19, 2013

BY WILBERT "TEE" HOLLOWAY, School board member, M-DCPS



## For Norland High, promises finally kept

Last November, Miami-Dade County Public Schools asked voters to invest in education by approving the issuance of a \$1.2B General Obligation Bond. Voters overwhelmingly gave a collective nod of approval with 70 percent of voters supporting the measure.

Superintendent Alberto Carvalho and the Board understand there is a clear mandate from the community — build better schools for students because every child deserves the opportunity to learn in a facility and environment that are conducive to learning and teaching. Over the next five years, schools across the County will receive new or upgraded infrastructure to support cutting-edge instructional technology. Bond-related projects range from electrical and technology upgrades to school renovations and school replacements. Construction at one of North Dade County's oldest high schools will be the first major bond initiative. Miami Norland Senior High will be replaced with a

modern, state-of-the-art 21st century educational facility for its more than 1,500 students. Built in 1958, time has taken its toll. Patient and reasonable in their efforts, Miami Norland's parents, alumni, and supporters have persistently advocated for a new school and although

Norland's \$35 million project will fund a number of infrastructure improvements but more significantly, bond financing means that the school's students, teachers and community will get a new state-of-the-art education facility worthy of Viking pride. By the time the proj-

ing improvements. The physical transformation of Norland could not have come at a more appropriate time. The school is on an academic upswing with steady gains in student achievement and a performance grade of "A;" students are graduating at a rate of nearly 90 percent — higher than the state; state academic and athletic championships have thrust the Miami Gardens high school into the spotlight; but there hasn't been a structural facelift of note to the existing school building since the 2006 gymnasium addition. The community is ready and deserving of a school that represents its present accomplishments and its hope for the future. A promise made is a promise kept, and the Superintendent and the Board will deliver on that promise. As a member of the School Board, I am grateful to Superintendent Carvalho and his team for making Miami Norland a priority. Our community is certainly deserving and warrants this new school.

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minor school construction projects were completed in 1997 and 2006, budget cuts and spiraling economic conditions have made total replacement of the existing structure an achievable, yet distant goal. That is until November 6, 2012 when the community spoke loud and clear. With financing from the bond, funding is now available to support capital construction projects at Miami Norland and other schools with similar structural challenges.

ect is completed in 2016, Norland will have new everything — auditorium, media center, cafeteria, art and music suites as well as new classrooms. The school's science wing and gymnasium, which were erected in 1997 and 2006, respectively, will get long overdue renovation and remodeling makeovers. In addition to getting a new building, the school will receive classroom technology and electrical upgrades, covered walkways and air conditioning and heat-

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Norland Senior  
High School  
November 6, 2013  
Mr. Carvalho  
Superintendent

Breaking ground on the new Norland Senior High.

## Norland Senior High celebrates groundbreaking

### *Renovations begin after 55 years*

By Ashley Montgomery  
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Students and faculty of Miami Norland Senior High School (MNSH) have been walking the same hallways since 1958. Now, after a promise was made last year by Miami-Dade County Public Schools, a brand new school is

on the horizon.

On Nov. 6, 2012 county voters for approved an issuance of \$1.2B General Obligation Bond (GOB) for dozens of Miami-Dade County Public Schools (M-DCPS) in need.

The GOB will go towards renovating buildings, updating technology, building school replacements, expanding student

capacity and enhancing facility safety.

"Our community allowed their voices to be heard and nearly 70 percent of those voting supported the measure," an excerpt from the back page of the program read.

Leaders of M-DCPS cheered and smiled along with the students, faculty and parents at the groundbreaking celebration. Students like freshman

Deliscia Glenn said that with a new school a better environment will come.

"I was just an elated attendee at the Norland Sr. High groundbreaking ceremony," said Rothei Fussel, a minister and City of Miami Gardens resident. "Both of my adult children graduated from Norland so this is a wonderful thing to witness."

Please turn to **NORLAND 5C**

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## M-DCPS keeps its promise

### NORLAND

continued from 4C

Principal Reginald Lee says he is looking forward to all that is to come with the new school.

"Property value, excitement, just everything you can think of, that puts a smile on your face as a parent and as a student," Lee said.

M-DCPS Superintendent Alberto Carvalho said that this investment will benefit every single school. By every single school, Carvalho is speaking about the 66 Year-1 projects with construction values between \$1 million and \$2 million that are underway. He also stressed that the long-term benefits of this 21st century schools bond initiative include the creation of 9,200 jobs throughout the com-



—Photo courtesy Lovette McGill

### School officials celebrate groundbreaking.

munity during the first three years of the bond. More than 18,000 sustainable jobs will be created during the course

of construction.

The new Norland campus is expected to open in August 2016.

