

POLITICAL SCENE

# 'That Washington-speak' in Liberty City

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BY LAURA ISENSEE

When U.S. Senator-turned-banker Mel Martinez pulled out an oversized check at Miami Northwestern Senior High School on Wednesday, it was a big deal for the school and Liberty City.

"I'm extremely proud today on behalf of J.P. Morgan Chase to present a check for one thousand dollars," Martinez said.

The bank chairman quickly corrected himself as the crowd laughed.

"A million dollars," Martinez said. "Sorry about that. It's that Washington-speak, you know. A thousand, a million, it's all money."

The investment will fund a three-year project to create a college-going culture at Miami Northwestern. Florida International University will partner with the school and the Miami-Dade school district.

FIU President Mark Rosenberg picked up on that Washington-speak. "I've never been in a place where we're getting a \$10 million-dollar gift" Rosenberg joked, as he thanked the bank.

Schools Superintendent Alberto Carvalho seconded the extra zeros.

"As we prepare to go into a school board meeting this afternoon, we work on motions. So all in favor, say aye," Carvalho said.

All in the jam-packed college resource center gave a resounding aye.

If only education funding were that easy.

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