

Frank J. Bolaños, Chairman

SUBJECT: REORGANIZATION OF SCHOOL BOARD STANDING COMMITTEES

COMMITTEE: LEGISLATIVE RELATIONS, PUBLIC RELATIONS AND PERSONNEL SERVICES

The School Board of Miami-Dade County is faced with an opportunity to lead our community with the important reform efforts that our school system needs for the betterment of our schoolchildren. Integral to this reform is enhanced transparency, accountability and efficiency at both the school board and administrative level. A reenergized committee structure that takes a more systemic view of the issues before it will assist in this effort.

The proposed reorganization of school board committees aims to set the tone for systemic reform in the areas of instructional excellence; accountability in supporting our schools; innovative and efficient business management practices; the reform of our facilities and construction processes; parental, teacher and student engagement; and long-term strategic planning.

The proposed committee structure identifies major reform initiatives and assigns the board's monthly agenda items to these initiatives. The many advisory committees that have been created to address specific issues would be assigned to, and give a progress report to, its relevant School Board Standing committee. This reorganization aspires to "connect the dots" between the myriad of monthly agenda items presented by the administration and board members, as well as the important work of the staff and citizen advisory committees. When presented to the committee, the committee members will ask: How does this advance the work and objective of this committee?

This new approach to the work of the Board will better align the efforts of the Superintendent and the Board as both attempt to carry out important and necessary reform-based initiatives. It aims to empower the initiatives and objectives of the committees and encourages board members and staff to focus on their special area of interest and or expertise. The Committee members and staff will set specific goals for the both the standing committee and advisory committees. They will measure and monitor the initiative, following an issue from its inception through its completion. This integrative approach will enhance the Board's role as a policymaker.

The new process will strive to increase the access to meetings and participation of our many stakeholders. The dates of all committee meetings will be published in advance for the entire school year, making it easier for the public to participate and making it a more transparent process. Key representatives of our school community will be invited to sit at the table as ex-officio, non-voting members of the committees. By inviting some of our key stakeholders to form part of our committees we will send a loud and clear message of a transparent and participatory style of governance.

To promote awareness and transparency the board is hereby asked to consider and discuss whether Committee meetings or a summary thereof should be broadcast to the community via WLRN, CableTap or Webcam. All committee minutes should conform to a standard format and be maintained by the Superintendent's designee.

**ACTION PROPOSED BY
CHAIRMAN FRANK J. BOLANOS:**

That the School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida:

1. Direct the Board Attorney to initiate rulemaking to amend School Board Rule 6Gx13-8C-1.23,

- a. to create the following committees, and scopes as follows:

Instructional Excellence

Develops policy and considers matters related to pre-kindergarten through secondary curriculum and instruction, educational planning and assessment, exceptional student education, student services, federal programs, all grants administration, including Title I, adult, vocational and alternative education, community schools and services, increasing the graduation rate and decreasing the dropout rate, education evaluation and research and related educational program procurement and rulemaking. The district-wide Teacher of the Year will serve as a non-voting ex-officio member.

Accountability in School Operations

Develops policy and considers matters related to school operations, attendance services and boundaries, school security, police and district safety, student discipline, uniforms, school improvement zone, educational facilities compliance, related school operations procurement and rulemaking. The district-wide Principal of the Year will serve as a non-voting, ex-officio member.

Innovation, Efficiency & Competition

Develops policy and considers matters related to accountability, systemic reform, performance improvement, budget, financial investments, risk and benefits management, information technology, energy management, transportation, food services, schools of choice and related procurement and rulemaking. A representative of the Coalition of Unions will serve as a non-voting, ex-officio member.

Facilities & Construction Reform

Develops policy and considers matters related to real estate, land acquisition and development, growth management, facilities planning, construction, maintenance, plant operations, and related construction and maintenance procurement and rulemaking. A representative from the Land Acquisition and Facilities Maintenance Operations Advisory Board will serve as a non-voting, ex-officio member.

Parent, Teacher & Student Engagement

Ensures clear, concise and user friendly communications with stakeholders. Develops policy and considers matters related to personnel, wage and salary, human resources, leave and retirement, employee support programs, teacher education certification, professional standards, professional development, equal educational opportunity and diversity compliance, Parent Academy, community relations, labor relations and related procurement and rulemaking. One (1) representative from the PTA/PTSA, one (1) from the UTD and the Student Advisor to the School Board will serve as non-voting, ex-officio members.

Planning, Policy & Governmental Relations

Develops policies as it relates to legislative and intergovernmental policies and programs. Considers matters related to the School Board's strategic planning, media communications, public relations, information and marketing, and related procurement and rulemaking. Receives agenda items from the Superintendent with suggested committee assignments, assigns items to committees. The Superintendent and Board Attorney will serve as non-voting, ex-officio members.

- b. to compose each Committee of three voting school board members, appointed by the Chairman of the School Board. The Chairman will appoint a Committee Chair and Vice-Chair for each committee and the non-voting community members. The appointments will be for a term of six months and be made following the November organizational meeting and in May of the subsequent year. The Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the School Board will serve as ex-officio, non-voting members of each committee that they do not directly serve on.
- c. To allow for the scheduling of committee meetings for the entire year and committee minutes conforming to the same format.

2. Suspend Board Rule 6Gx13-8C-1.23, and allow for the School Board Chairman to effectuate these changes immediately until such time that the amended board rule has taken effect.