

Frank J. Bolaños, Chairman

SUBJECT: EMERGENCY PREPARATION & PROTOCOL

COMMITTEE: INNOVATION, EFFICIENCY AND GOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS

Hurricanes Katrina and Wilma left the communities affected by the storm with the need and desire for additional and improved emergency preparedness and response procedures. The effect of these hurricanes reminded us of the interdependence we share with other governmental bodies and communities.

Our first concern is for the safety, well-being and education of our school-children. The school district's pro-active emergency planning helps our students, parents, teachers and employees at a time that they need it the most.

Thanks to the leadership of our professional staff, our school district has been able to act judiciously to prepare for unforeseen emergencies and developed well-thought out plans for these occurrences. We have the opportunity and responsibility to identify best practices from the lessons learned from Hurricane Wilma. This will allow us to better prepare and coordinate response plans for future emergencies.

This board item seeks to update Board Rule 6Gx13-6A-1.06, Emergency Management Procedures. It is presented after consultation with school system staff and the elected officials that lead the United Leadership for Accountability in Government, including Chairmen Joe Martinez of Miami-Dade County, Joe Sanchez of the City of Miami, Council President Julio Robaina of the City of Hialeah and Mayors David Dermer of the City of Miami Beach and Shirley Gibson of the City of Miami Gardens.

The suggested items for discussion, are as follows:

- Protocol for re-opening of school(s)
- Providing for additional shelters in cooperation with the American Red Cross
- Providing locations for decentralized distribution centers for water and pre-packaged food for affected communities
- Emergency operation of select school cafeterias for affected communities
- Providing select regional schools and facilities with backup generators for relief activities
- Providing fuel and ice for school district employees and families
- Improving communication in the aftermath of an emergency
- Emergency pay policies for part-time employees
- Emergency child care
- Pre-selection and designation of personnel needed for the response to a Hurricane or other emergency

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**ACTION PROPOSED BY
CHAIRMAN BOLAÑOS:**

That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida direct

1. the Chairman to consult with other elected officials and emergency response agencies including FEMA and The American Red Cross to identify best practices and cost-sharing opportunities.
2. Direct the Superintendent to provide a report to the Board by February 15th to consider, if appropriate, additional measures or changes in emergency preparations and response, including, but not limited to, items in the narrative above.

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