

Dr. Marta Pérez, Board Member

**SUBJECT: PUBLIC ACCESS**

**COMMITTEE: INSTRUCTIONAL EXCELLENCE AND COMMUNITY  
ENGAGEMENT**

**LINK TO DISTRICT**

**STRATEGIC PLAN: IMPROVE STAKEHOLDER SATISFACTION**

This school district has in the past prided itself in ensuring adherence to open government and public access and accountability. Further, the state of Florida through its Governor has reiterated a commitment to access to the public of its governmental entities.

The School Board is responsible as policy maker through its School Board rules to ensure every possible opportunity for its constituents, the public, to be able to participate in debate of agenda items, public hearings, workshops and other forums.

The current budget crisis has increased the public's awareness of the impact of reduced funding on education. The community has expressed an increased interest in actively participating in the budget process as well as other matters of educational concern. Their voices have been loud and clear that they wish access to information that is being put forth and to be able to address matters that bear directly upon their children's education, including budget proposals, repurposing and other issues of critical import.

School Board rules must ensure the School Board's commitment to its constituents and their right to be heard and participate in the process of good government as it pertains to education. Recently, the School Board enforced a 90 minute provision on the length of its public hearings, and workshops are being held in small conference rooms instead of the Board auditorium.

A time constraint is but one way of limiting access to the public. Another is by not providing adequate accommodations for the stakeholders that wish to exercise their right to attend public meetings to hear and view all the information that is provided. Whenever a large turnout is anticipated, the necessary steps should be taken to accommodate the public that we represent.

This agenda item proposes that the Superintendent and Board Attorney be directed to review Board rules that pertain to open government and public access; including School Board Rule 6Gx-13- 8C-1.17, Citizen Appearances –

Board Meetings and 6Gx13- 8C-1.101, Types of Meetings and to bring back recommendations for Board rule amendment to ensure public access.

**ACTION PROPOSED BY  
DR. MARTA PÉREZ:**

That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida direct the Superintendent and School Board Attorney to bring proposals for amendments to any and all board rules that address public access, public records and government in the sunshine, including, but not limited to, School Board Rule 6Gx-13- 8C-1.17, Citizen Appearances – Board Meetings and 6Gx13- 8C-1.101, Types of Meetings, in order to guarantee the broadest access possible to the public by the July School Board meeting.