

Alberto M. Carvalho, Superintendent of Schools

SUBJECT: CONTINUE RELIEF EFFORTS FOR HAITI AND DONATE SURPLUS MATERIALS, AS MAY BE AVAILABLE; MAKE NECESSARY REPAIRS TO ENSURE ANY VEHICLES AND/OR PORTABLE CLASSROOM BUILDINGS ARE IN SAFE AND OPERABLE; COORDINATE TRANSPORT OF DONATED MATERIALS WITH OTHER WILLING AGENCIES, AND PERIODICALLY UPDATE THE BOARD ON THESE EFFORTS

COMMITTEE: INNOVATION, EFFICIENCY AND GOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS

LINK TO

STRATEGIC PLAN: INCREASE STUDENT EXPOSURE AND UNDERSTANDING OF GLOBAL ISSUES AND ECONOMY

Background

The Republic of Haiti has recently suffered the impact of four successive hurricanes that have decimated this impoverished nation. During the School Board meeting of October 15, 2008, President René Préval personally thanked the District for its recent relief efforts and appealed to the Board for ongoing emergency assistance for the people of Haiti. The Board subsequently directed the Superintendent to continue and expand the provision of surplus portable classrooms, one surplus school bus and other surplus materials. The following are highlights of the District's efforts to date:

Status of Humanitarian Aid Efforts

- On October 29, 2008, CHOICE Environmental Services, delivered a refurbished, fully operational garbage truck to Notre Dame d' Haiti Catholic Church and on October 31, 2008, a surplus M-DCPS school bus was also delivered. These vehicles will be turned over to a government delegation on November 17, 2008 for transport to Haiti.
- Mr. Carl Nicoleau, Administrative Director, Facilities Operations – Maintenance, has been designated the point person for coordinating the District's relief efforts. On November 2, 2008, Mr. Nicoleau participated in a WLRN radio program in Haitian Creole called Radio Lecole. During this broadcast, the local Haitian community was informed of the District's relief efforts.

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- District staff met representatives from the Consulate General of Haiti and identified 13 portable classrooms at North Miami Elementary School, which are eligible for surplus.
- Arrangements are being finalized to transport and install the classrooms in areas of need.
- District staff has identified 10 additional surplus buses and related spare parts that are no longer in use.
- The Prime Minister and Consul General of Haiti have been kept apprised regarding the District's efforts.

District staff will continue to work with representatives from the government of Haiti as well as public and private partners to provide material support on a continuing basis. Any donations of District property shall be made in accordance with applicable Florida Statutes and Board rules. The recent collapse of a school in the town of Petion-Ville emphasized the importance of these ongoing relief efforts.

RECOMMENDED: That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, authorize the Superintendent to:

- 1) continue relief efforts for the Republic of Haiti and donate surplus materials, as may be available;
- 2) make necessary repairs to ensure that any vehicles and/or portable classroom buildings are in a safe/operable condition prior to their donation;
- 3) coordinate transport of donated items with other willing agencies; and
- 4) periodically update the Board regarding these efforts.

AMC:cn