

Dr. Dorothy Bendross-Mindingall, Board Member

SUBJECT: AUTHORIZATION TO DIRECT THE SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS TO COORDINATE COMMUNITY MEETINGS TO INFORM AND RECEIVE INPUT FROM STAKEHOLDERS REGARDING FREDERICK DOUGLASS K-8 CENTER RE-CONSTRUCTION

COMMITTEE: FACILITIES AND CONSTRUCTION REFORM

LINK TO STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK: STUDENT, PARENT AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, approved agenda item F-7 at its April 2011 board meeting. Item F-7 authorized the Superintendent of Schools to explore a collaboration with the Southeast Overtown Park West (SEOPW) CRA to rebuild Frederick Douglass Elementary School as a K-8 center.

Subsequently, the SEOPW CRA board of directors approved a resolution to authorize their staff to commence negotiations with the school board related to the financing of this project at their April 25, 2011, meeting. The SEOPW CRA board is very supportive of this project and the residents who attended the meeting expressed similar sentiments.

Pursuant to the District's Strategic Framework to "... enhance student, parent, and community understanding, awareness, and support for our schools...", it is important that we engage the community as early as feasibly possible. Overtown has a very rich history and, partially due to circumstances outside of the community's control, is far removed from its heyday. It is imperative that we connect with students, parents, faculty and residents from the outset of this project to promote a spirit of inclusion. We must clearly communicate to all stakeholders that they are equal partners in this endeavor, along with the District and SEOPW CRA.

Thus, this item proposes to direct the Superintendent to organize community meetings as expedient as possible to ensure full understanding of the project.

ACTION PROPOSED BY

DR. DOROTHY BENDROSS-MINDINGALL: That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, direct the Superintendent of Schools to immediately initiate the coordination of community meetings to inform and receive input from stakeholders regarding the re-construction of Frederick Douglass Elementary as a K-8 center.