

Dr. Dorothy Bendross-Mindingall, Board Member

SUBJECT: STUDENT TRANSPORTATION

COMMITTEE: INNOVATION, EFFICIENCY, AND GOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS

LINK TO STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK: STUDENT, PARENT, AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

The school bus holds an iconic place in education. The 'big yellow bus' turning the corner on morning routes signifies the start of the school day for most students. The school bus has endeared the hearts of students so much that there are songs penned to recognize its place. The most memorable of which is "The Wheels on the Bus."

Student transportation is at the forefront of concern in some areas because of recent tragedies. M-DCPS has a commendable record as it relates to transporting our most precious cargo. We have safety plans and reporting that are closely monitored and continually improved. It is important that we remain vigilant and not allow past successes lead to future complacency.

Additionally, an RFP will be awarded to transportation companies as a supplement to the services of M-DCPS at the August 3 School Board meeting. If the School Board approves the measure, we will do so without the benefit of reviewing their safety records of each company, as it is not a part of the supplemental information. The availability of that information will allow Board Members to make a more informed decision.

To that end, in light of the recent events and our contracting companies to provide supplemental transportation services, this item proposes that the Superintendent review the safety guidelines and reports of contracted companies and provide a report thereof. Further, the district should review M-DCPS transportation safety technology to ensure that we are employing all feasible methods for ensuring student safety.

ACTION PROPOSED BY

DR. DOROTHY BENDROSS-MINDINGALL:

That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, direct the Superintendent to review the transportation guidelines and reports of contracted companies, and the transportation safety technology employed by M-DCPS and provide a report thereof on or before the October 2011 School Board meeting.