Office of School Board Members
Board Meeting of May 16, 2012

May 7, 2012

Dr. Lawrence S. Feldman, Vice Chair

SUBJECT: **REQUEST THAT THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA AUTHORIZE THE SUPERINTENDENT TO EXPLORE OPPORTUNITIES TO SCREEN THE FILM "BULLY" FOR EMPLOYEES TO INCREASE UNDERSTANDING AND ENHANCE AWARENESS OF BULLYING AND ITS REPERCUSSIONS**

COMMITTEE: **INSTRUCTIONAL EXCELLENCE AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT**

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

School bullying statistics in the United States show that about one in four students in the U.S. are bullied on a regular basis. In a recent i-SAFE survey, results indicated that teens in grades six through ten are most likely to be involved in activities related to bullying. However, bullying is not unique to this population and the prevalence of social media has created an opportunity for bullying on the internet, also known as cyber-bullying. About 30 percent of students in the United States are involved in bullying on a regular basis either as victim, bully or both. These school bullying statistics portray the problem bullying has become in our country. Furthermore, statistics indicate that in about 85 percent of bullying cases, no intervention or effort is made to stop the bullying from taking place.

However, a growing awareness and education programs nationwide are helping more schools and their staff take a more active approach to cutting down on the number of students that live in fear of being bullied. Miami-Dade County Public Schools boasts a strong anti-bullying curriculum aimed at educating and addressing the need for educating students, both victims and bullies, and it is to be commended for its efforts to address these issues. While it is not always possible to prevent cases of bullying, it is important to know what to do as a teacher or other school official to stop bullying through various types of bullying interventions.

At a recent local screening and panel discussion of the film "Bully" hosted by the United Teachers of Dade, educators, elected officials and community members discussed the efforts that can be made by all stakeholders to change the disturbing culture of bullying that is so prevalent in America today. This item serves to direct the superintendent to explore the opportunity to screen the film "Bully" for designated employees for the purpose of promoting a greater degree of understanding and awareness of intervention bullying.

ACTION PROPOSED BY DR. LAWRENCE S. FELDMAN: That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, authorize the Superintendent to explore opportunities to screen the film "Bully" for employees to increase understanding and enhance awareness of bullying and its repercussions.

Replacement
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