

Dr. Lawrence S. Feldman, Board Member

SUBJECT: SCHOOL BOARD MEETINGS

**COMMITTEE: INSTRUCTIONAL EXCELLENCE AND COMMUNITY
ENGAGEMENT**

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

Miami-Dade County Public School (M-DCPS) Board meetings are held on a monthly basis at the M-DCPS School Board Auditorium, located in downtown Miami. School Board meetings have, particularly in recent years, been run with notable professionalism guided by a collegial Board and professional staff and cabinet. Interested citizens and constituents are able to attend meetings and have their voice heard and concerns addressed expeditiously. Unfortunately, accessibility for many residents and communities throughout the county continues to be limited or non-existent as distance and travel factors create obstacles to their participation.

In an effort to accommodate more residents, allow for additional input of all communities who have a vested interest in the affairs of the School Board, and address a growing interest in the recent passage of the bond referendum, the School Board may consider this an opportune time to introduce the rotation of School Board meeting locations. An increased number of residents throughout the county would enjoy an immediate and meaningful opportunity to interact in governance with a proactive measure aimed at bringing these meetings to their neighborhoods and communities while removing historically-limiting obstacles.

A recent example of this move towards accessible governance is visible under the leadership of Miami-Dade County Commission Chairwoman Rebecca Sosa. The Miami-Dade County Commission will host its first offsite Commission meeting on Tuesday, May 21, 2013 at the South Miami-Dade Cultural Arts Center. Commission meetings are typically held at the Stephen P. Clark Center in Downtown Miami, but the Commission, under the guidance of Ms. Sosa's initiative, recently approved a measure aimed at bringing government closer to residents. The commission has made it their mission to bring meetings to South Dade, North Dade and possibly university campuses.

This item seeks to bring forth a recommendation from the Superintendent addressing the concept of accessible governance via off-site School Board meetings. The locations should take into account those communities and residents whose participation is limited due to distance and travel factors.

ACTION PROPOSED BY

DR. LAWRENCE S. FELDMAN: That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, request the Superintendent explore the concept and feasibility of accessible governance via off-site School Board meetings and bring forth recommendations by the August 7, 2013 School Board meeting.

**Replacement
H-12**