

Dr. Lawrence S. Feldman, Vice Chair

SUBJECT: EMERGENCY NOTIFICATION SYSTEM AND CAMPUS SECURITY

COMMITTEE: INSTRUCTIONAL EXCELLENCE AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

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

Over the past several years, tragic school site events nationwide served to remind communities of the need to safeguard school campuses and to effectively and efficiently broadcast information to a wide audience of students, families, and employees for a multitude of purposes through emergency notification systems. Miami-Dade County Public Schools (M-DCPS) has made use of notification systems to not only advise communities of daily school events and news, but also made use of the automated calling system, particularly during emergency weather events, to ensure that all school communities and stakeholders received consistent, timely and accurate information. All members of a community reap the benefits from a school system that successfully executes its emergency management preparedness and implementation programs, such as M-DCPS, which is culled from experience and dedicated to continuous growth, training and excellence. The recent addition of police officers to Miami-Dade School Police Department ensures that all middle and senior high schools are afforded a school resource officer and is a further testament to this shared commitment for a safe learning environment.

As we move forward with the advanced implementations of the 21st Century General Obligation Bond, this item seeks to initiate a review of our current emergency notification systems, their respective offerings, uses, and limitations in our goal to provide a more effective and efficient student safety and community notifications. Further, this item seeks to identify and address our current campus security features, and explore all available security upgrades that might include, but not limited to button-activated wireless monitored camera systems and relevant technological advances in the area of campus security, student safety, and community notifications. Additionally, The Board would be well served to be informed of current trends and best practices in the field of campus security and expansive emergency notifications, particularly, as we provide schools with technological infrastructures that should support added security features.

**Replacement
H-11**

**ACTION PROPOSED BY VICE CHAIR
DR. LAWRENCE FELDMAN:**

That The School Board of Miami Dade County, Florida, direct the Superintendent to conduct a study reviewing each M-DCPS school site's current emergency notification systems and security features in place and bring forth findings and recommendations to the Board by no later than the February 2014 School Board meeting. The study should include, but not be limited to an assessment of:

- a) current M-DCPS notification systems and their respective offerings, utilization, and limitations with respect to student safety and community notifications;
- b) current campus security features and suggestions for enhancement and improvement;
- c) available security upgrades, including, but not limited to, button-activated wireless monitored camera systems and relevant technological advances in the area of campus and student safety;
- d) current trends and best practices in the field of campus security and efficient, effective, and timely notification systems.