

Dr. Lawrence S. Feldman, Vice Chair

**SUBJECT:** REQUEST FOR APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION NO. 14-035 OF THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA, IN OPPOSITION OF SENATE BILL 968

**COMMITTEE:** INNOVATION, EFFICIENCY & GOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS

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

A recent legislative proposal, in the form of Senate Bill (SB) 968, has caused great debate and controversy among educational communities and safety advocates throughout the state. SB 968 provides for an exception to a prohibition on possession of firearms or other specified devices on school property or in other specified areas for authorized concealed weapon or firearm licensees as designated by school principals or district superintendents. Essentially, SB 968 authorizes school principals and district school superintendents to designate employees and/or other designees to carry concealed firearms on school campuses or in district administrative buildings. The bill requires that designees meet criteria set forth in the bill including having either a military or law enforcement background, successful completion of a training program, and additional screening as required by the principal or superintendent. The Florida Department of Law Enforcement will design and administer the training as set forth in the bill.

Although SB 968 features some welcome and proactive requisites such as requiring school district boards formulate policies and procedures for managing active-shooter / hostage situations and authorizing district school boards to commission one or more school safety officers on each school campus, the authorization that would allow for a superintendent or school principal to designate concealed-weapon carrying employees is, at best, unsettling and may potentially circumvent school board authority. During senate committee hearings, The Florida School Board Association, alongside parent groups and statewide teacher unions, vocally opposed this bill and cited additional concerns related to the burden of responsibility placed on school personnel and liability issues. Of note, the idea that schools have armed and uniformed law enforcement professionals assigned to each school site has received more support and acceptance.

The purpose of this item is to establish consensus amongst the Board in opposition of SB 968, which, as currently presented, allows for the legislative authorization of school principals and district school superintendents to designate employees and/or other designees to carry concealed firearms on school campuses or in district administrative buildings. This item seeks to pass School Board Resolution No. 14-035 in opposition of SB 968 and authorize the Superintendent to transmit said resolution to the Miami-Dade County Legislative Delegation.

This item does not appear on the published agenda. There exists good cause to vary from the published agenda in order to ensure that the public and the Legislature are apprised of the Board's position through the recommended adoption of this Resolution prior to any further legislative action on SB 968.

**ACTION PROPOSED BY**

**DR. LAWRENCE S. FELDMAN:** That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, approve Resolution No. 14-035 of The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, in opposition of Senate Bill 968.

**Good Cause  
H-20**

**RESOLUTION NO. 14-035  
OF THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA,  
IN OPPOSITION OF SENATE BILL 968**

**WHEREAS**, A recent legislative proposal, in the form of Senate Bill 968, has caused great debate and controversy among educational communities and safety advocates throughout the State; and

**WHEREAS**, SB 968 authorizes school principals and district school superintendents to designate employees and/or other designees to carry concealed firearms on school campuses or in district administrative buildings; and

**WHEREAS**, The bill requires that designees meet criteria set forth in the bill including having either a military or law enforcement background, successful completion of a training program, and additional screening as required by the principal or superintendent. The Florida Department of Law Enforcement will design and administer the training as set forth in the bill; and

**WHEREAS**, Although SB 968 features welcome and proactive requisites such as requiring school district boards formulate policies and procedures for managing active-shooter / hostage situations and authorizing district school boards to commission one or more school safety officers on each school campus, the authorization that would allow for a superintendent or school principal to designate concealed-weapon carrying employees is unsettling and may circumvent school board authority; and

**WHEREAS**, During senate committee hearings, The Florida School Board Association, alongside parent groups and statewide teacher unions, vocally opposed this bill and cited additional concerns related to the burden of responsibility placed on school personnel and liability issues.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT:**

The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, approve Resolution No. 14-035 of The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, in opposition of Senate Bill 968.

A copy of this resolution is placed in the permanent records of this Board.

**Presented this twelfth day of March, A.D. 2014**

THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA

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CHAIR

ATTEST:

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Secretary