

Ms. Raquel Regalado, Board Member

**SUBJECT: WIRELESS REPEATERS**

**COMMITTEE: INSTRUCTIONAL EXCELLENCE AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT**

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

A wireless repeater (also called wireless range extender) is a compact device commonly used to extend the coverage area of a WiFi network. It works by taking an existing signal from a wireless router or access point and amplifying said signal to a second network. Wireless repeaters, which are often used in place of additional routers to avoid added expense, offer the same levels of security as traditional WiFi routers (WEP, WPA, WPA2 etc).

At M-DCPS, we are already working toward keeping students up to date with technology during school hours. However, it is vital to ensure that students have access to this technology after school, during weekends and other non-school times, as homework is increasingly demanding Internet use and many students currently do not have access to Internet at home. Said students are also finding that they can no longer count on public libraries for their online homework as hour-long waits to use a computer and aging equipment are not meeting their need for Internet use.

This item requests that we research what wireless repeaters will facilitate a viable extension of our M-DCPS WiFi to parks and other points up to one mile from school facilities, with the understanding that Miami-Dade County and several municipalities have committed to purchasing these wireless repeaters for M-DCPS and ensuring that said practice is not in violation of federal E-Rate funding provisions and that M-DCPS advocate for E-Rate flexibility in order to ensure district-wide connectivity.

REVISED

This item does not appear on the published agenda. Good cause exists to vary from the published agenda because the opportunity to extend the range of our M-DCPS WiFi arose after publication.

**ACTION PROPOSED BY**

**MS. RAQUEL REGALADO:**

That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, through the Superintendent, research what wireless range extenders will provide a feasible extension of our M-DCPS WiFi to access points up to one mile from our school facilities, with the understanding that Miami-Dade County and several municipalities have committed to purchasing these wireless repeaters for M-DCPS.