

Dr. Dorothy Bendross-Mindingall, Board Member

**SUBJECT:                   INTEGRATION OF LOCAL AFRICAN-AMERICAN, HISPANIC AND JEWISH HISTORY INTO MIAMI-DADE COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS BY UTILIZING, INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO, LOCAL PUBLICATIONS, ARCHIVES AND HISTORICAL SITES**

**COMMITTEE:               ACADEMICS, EVALUATION AND TECHNOLOGY**

**LINK TO STRATEGIC  
FRAMEWORK:             EDUCATION**

As the building blocks of structures, such as, the National Museum of African American History and Culture are being laid on the National Mall in Washington, D.C., we must continue to build on our students' knowledge of their own local history. As such, it is important that we seek to improve the methods in which we instruct our students on the historical contributions of local African-American, Hispanic and Jewish figures, sites, publications and events throughout the County into the Miami-Dade County Public Schools curriculum.

Under Florida Statute 1003.42(2), members of public school instructional staff are required to teach:

“(g) The history of the Holocaust (1933-1945), the systematic, planned annihilation of European Jews and other groups by Nazi Germany, a watershed event in the history of humanity...”

“(h) The history of African Americans, the history of African peoples before the political conflicts that led to the development of slavery, the passage to America, the enslavement experience, abolition, and the contributions of African Americans to society.”

“(p) The study of Hispanic contributions to the United States.”

South Florida's unique geographical location provides for a rare and diverse historical background. The rich history emanating from South Florida's diversity can be found in publications like Black Miami and North of the Grove; historical holdings like the Museum of History Miami, Jewish Museum of Florida – FIU, Miami Metropolitan Archives, and Black Archives; historical locations like the Hampton House, Holocaust Memorial Miami Beach, and the Freedom Tower. The aforementioned are just a few of the resources that instructional staff can utilize to bolster the information given to our students regarding the history that surrounds them every day.

**ACTION PROPOSED BY**

**DR. DOROTHY BENDROSS-MINDINGALL:** That The School Board of Miami-Dade County Florida, authorize the Superintendent to:

- (1) Derive methods to increase local African-American, Hispanic and Jewish history (including, but not limited to, local historical figures, sites, publications and events) and ensuring same is aligned with curriculum and instruction, as well as any Florida and State Board of Education testing requirements and/or standards into Miami-Dade County Public School pacing guides, social science instructional resources packets and guides, as well as increase online resources for members of our instructional staff;
- (2) Derive methods to increase the utilization of local publications, archives, and historical sites to enhance our students' knowledge of local African-American, Hispanic and Jewish history; and
- (3) Determine methods to increase parental access to information and/or resources related to local African-American, Hispanic and Jewish history through, including but not limited to, the parent portal; and
- (4) Develop a strategic plan to increase funding and/or instructional materials/resources through, including but not limited to, grants, educational compacts, and interlocal agreements, to effectively implement the actions proposed herein.