

Ms. Susie V. Castillo, Board Member

**SUBJECT: METAL DETECTORS**

**COMMITTEE: PERSONNEL SERVICES AND STUDENT AND SCHOOL SUPPORT**

**LINK TO STRATEGIC BLUEPRINT: SAFE, HEALTHY AND SUPPORTIVE LEARNING ENVIRONMENT**

It is imperative that school districts take concrete steps toward helping to improve security at school sites. To that end, this school district should consider adding metal detectors to all its facilities – starting with schools. This would allow for substantially improved control over individuals trying to access an educational facility with a weapon or intending to do harm to others. It would also facilitate the detection of unauthorized items on campus. Furthermore, counter to what some may argue about metal detectors having a negative psychological impact on students, there is often a benefit associated with the measure which is that it actually makes students and staff feel safer.

The use of metal detectors is being recommended as a preventative measure. Inasmuch as we want to help improve safety amongst our students, this is largely a measure to protect our students and staff from individuals who may try to access schools with weapons. It is an added safety measure – a first line of defense that could deter those intending to do harm from targeting our schools.

This is also not a new concept. School districts large and small across the country have implemented this measure to great success. The reasons prompting them to implement these policies have been diverse; in some cases as a result of student violence, in others as a result of external threats, but in the end, all have coincided in a deliberate attempt to improve school-site safety.

**ACTION PROPOSED BY  
MS. SUSIE V. CASTILLO:**

That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, authorize the Superintendent to explore the feasibility of adding metal detectors to all our facilities and report back to the Board by the February 2016 Board Meeting.