

Dr. Dorothy Bendross-Mindingall, Vice Chair

**SUBJECT: DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS AND EDUCATION**

**COMMITTEE: INNOVATION, GOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS & COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT**

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

Miami-Dade County Public Schools has proven throughout the years as being the leader in providing a safe and supportive environment for our children to learn and prosper. Domestic violence is an epidemic which not only affects the lives of adults, but also the lives of our students.

Florida law defines domestic violence as an assault, aggravated assault, battery, aggravated battery, sexual assault, sexual battery, stalking, aggravated stalking, kidnapping, false imprisonment, or any criminal Offense resulting in physical injury or death of one family member or household member by another family or household member.

According to the Florida Coalition Against Domestic Violence (FCADV), 106,882 domestic violence offenses were reported to law enforcement in 2014. During the 2014-15 fiscal year, FCADV also reported 15,397 individuals received emergency shelter at a certified domestic violence center. Domestic violence survivors and their children spent 546,658 night in emergency shelters.

Miami-Dade County Board of County Commissioners has indicated their desire to collaborate with Miami-Dade County Public Schools by identifying framework for domestic violence curriculum; researching credible domestic violence education programs; developing domestic violence tool kits, safety net plans, and professional development opportunities for educators; and obtaining a best practices reporting system.

Miami-Dade County Public Schools has served as a dedicated community partner with assisting our students and families with local shelters and service agencies in our community. It is important to ensure our administration, teachers, and staff understand how to properly manage and handle reports of domestic violence. Working with our local government, agencies, and community organizations would be critical to provide resources for domestic violence awareness and education to our schools.

This item seeks to authorize the Superintendent to explore the feasibility of Miami-Dade County Public Schools partnering with Miami-Dade County Board of County Commissioners to provide domestic violence education, awareness, and resources for our public schools.

**ACTION PROPOSED BY**

**DR. DOROTHY BENDROSS-MINDINGALL:**

That The School Board of Miami-Dade County Florida, request the Superintendent to explore the feasibility of partnering with Miami-Dade County Board of County Commissioners to address the issue of domestic violence awareness, education, and resources in our schools.