

Dr. Lawrence Feldman, Board Member

Co-Sponsors: Ms. Perla Tabares Hantman, Chair
Dr. Dorothy Bendross-Mindingall, Vice Chair
Ms. Lubby Navarro, Board Member
Dr. Marta Pérez Wurtz, Board Member

**SUBJECT: REVIEW SCHOOL BOARD POLICIES AND INITIATE CHANGES
CONSISTENT WITH BEST PRACTICES**

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

**LINK TO STRATEGIC
BLUEPRINT: INFORMED, ENGAGED, AND EMPOWERED STAKEHOLDERS**

The Miami-Dade County Public School Board (School Board) is the policy making body for the District. This is the School Board's legislative function as outlined by FS 1001.41 and School Board Policy *0130 Functions*. As a responsive, dynamic and open governing entity, the School Board dictates a comprehensive review of its own policies minimally every two years, as per FS 120.74 and School Board Policy *0171 Duties*. This review allows the Superintendent to recommend revisions that are deemed necessary, but does not impede him from making recommendations as often as needed. Likewise, the constitutionally elected School Board Members representing the interests of over 350,000 students, 50,000 plus employees and every taxpayer in the diverse and vibrant communities of Miami-Dade County, proffer authorization for and assist in creating policy reflective of the needs of all those they serve.

The School Board has a history of responsive policies created to efficiently and effectively address the myriad issues that come before a school system. As recently as this past month, Special Counsel for Open Government in the State of Florida Attorney General's Office, Patricia Gleason, noted and commended the School Board for its collaboration with the School Board Attorney in policy development and, particularly, for having Public Hearing policies in place. An opportunity to review the Public Hearing policy at this time would help in continuing to ensure the fruitful, open and respectful exchange of ideas between the School Board, Superintendent, District staff, and community members. This item seeks to authorize the Superintendent to review School Board Policy *0169.1 Public Participation at Board Meetings*, in collaboration with the School Board Attorney's Office, and bring back revision recommendations to the Board to ensure that best practices are reflected when conducting public hearings.

Additionally, this item seeks a review of School Board Policy *7540.05 Staff Electronic Email* language and requests revision recommendations that ensure policy compliance by and application to all authorized users to include, and specifically denote, School Board Members by the February 2017 School Board meeting. Currently, ambiguous language regarding the definition of an authorized user may lead to unintended misuse of District email.

**ACTION PROPOSED BY
DR. LAWRENCE S. FELDMAN:**

That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida authorize the Superintendent to:

1. Review School Board Policy *0169.1 Public Participation at Board Meetings* and bring forth recommendations, based on best practices and guidance as provided by the School Board Attorney and Richard J. Ovelmen, Esq., for discussion and revision at the February 2017 School Board meeting.
2. Review School Board Policy *7540.05 Staff Electronic Email* language and bring forth recommendations that ensure policy compliance by and application to all authorized users to include, and specifically denote, School Board Members by the February 2017 School Board meeting for discussion and revision.

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