

Dr. Dorothy Bendross-Mindingall, Board Member

SUBJECT: STUDENT BEHAVIOR – DISCIPLINE OF DISCRIMINATORY BEHAVIOR

COMMITTEE: PERSONNEL SERVICES AND STUDENT AND SCHOOL SUPPORT

LINK TO STRATEGIC BLUEPRINT: SAFE, HEALTHY, AND SUPPORTIVE LEARNING ENVIROMENT

The vision of M-DCPS entails a commitment to provide educational excellence for all. This vision entails the mission of providing the highest quality education to all of our students so that they are empowered to lead productive and fulfilling lives as lifelong learners and responsible citizens. To do this, M-DCPS has stood on the core values of Excellence, Integrity, Equity, and Citizenship. Of these four core values, stands the pillar of Equity, which directs us to foster an environment that serves all students and aspired to eliminate the achievement; and the pillar of Integrity which directs us to help build positive relationships in the M-DCPS community through honesty, respect, and compassion, thereby enhancing the overall well-being of our students, family, and staff.

M-DCPS must ensure that all of our students, regardless of race, religion, culture, sexual orientation, political ideologies, and overall beliefs, are given an environment free from any action or behavior that expressly or implicitly denotes any form of racial discrimination or other any other means of discrimination.

When and where there is any circumstance in which the core values of this M-DCPS institution are threatened or compromises, it is our duty to preserve the M-DCPS we take pride in and hold dear to.

In light of the recent political events, M-DCPS must do its part to honor, promote, and defend the democracy of this great nation, as well as the principles of fairness and respect for all which it strives to maintain.

Over the past few months, students at our schools unfortunately took part in different acts of discrimination. The students were subsequently disciplined for their behavior, which was considered disruptive to the learning environment, pursuant to The Code of Student Conduct.

With The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida placing special emphasis on doing away with out-of-school suspensions and seeking alternative means of discipline for adverse behavior, we as the School Board must settle concretely the parameters of discipline that M-DCPS can initiate. Moreover, we must engage more fervently in the education of our children on the egregiousness and harmful effects of discrimination.

We as the elected body must do our part to put in place clear and specific regulations that address acts of discrimination or racial intent, and find the appropriate means of discipline for such behavior, in accordance with the degree of severity.

ACTION PROPOSED BY

DR. DOROTHY BENDROSS-MINDINGALL: That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, direct the Superintendent to review the Code of Student Conduct and provide alternative measures to address various acts of discrimination or discriminatory behavior and report back to the School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, by February 15, 2017.