

Ms. Maria Teresa Rojas, Board Member

SUBJECT: PROVIDE RELIEF EFFORTS FOR THE BRITISH VIRGIN ISLANDS BY DONATING SURPLUS CLASSROOM CHAIRS AND/OR ANY SCHOOL FURNITURE AVAILABLE

COMMITTEE: INNOVATION, GOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS, AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

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

The British Virgin Islands are especially vulnerable to hurricanes as they are located in what is referred to as the hurricane region in the Caribbean and have been hit by several hurricanes and tropical storms since 1979. Most recently, they felt the winds of powerful storm Irma and were hit by the full category-five force of Hurricane Maria. Government officials have described widespread damages with properties destroyed, communications silenced, and no power or running water. In summary, the islands have been devastated.

Florida-Caribbean Cruise Association (FCCA), a non-profit organization, is collaborating with Evenstar Structures, a Miami-Dade County based manufacturer of temporary infrastructures and buildings, and governmental officials from the British Virgin Islands in order to donate temporary classroom structures to the island. One structure being donated is approximately 4,200 square feet to be used as a large classroom. A request has been made to determine if Miami-Dade County Public Schools has any surplus classroom chairs and/or any school furniture, as may be available, to donate to the people of the British Virgin Islands as this temporary classroom is built.

If approved by the Board, District staff will work with representatives of the known agencies to identify surplus classroom chairs and/or any school furniture, as may be available, for the British Virgin Islands. Any donations of District property shall be made in accordance with applicable Florida Statutes and Board policy.

This item does not appear in the regularly published agenda. There is good cause to vary from the published agenda because the temporary classroom structure and other donations will be shipped to the British Virgin Islands within the next two weeks.

This item has been reviewed and approved by the School Board Attorney's office as to form and legal sufficiency.

ACTION PROPOSED BY

MS. MARIA TERESA ROJAS: That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, authorize the Superintendent of Schools to:

- 1) provide relief efforts for the British Virgin Islands by donating surplus classroom chairs and/or any school furniture, as may be available; and
- 2) coordinate transport of donated classroom chairs and/or any school furniture, as may be available, with identified willing agencies, at no cost to the District.