Office of School Board Members   March 20, 2018
Board Meeting of March 21, 2018

Dr. Lawrence S. Feldman, Board Member

Co-Sponsors: Ms. Maria Teresa Rojas, Board Member

SUBJECT: **LOCKDOWN DRILLS**

COMMITTEE: **PERSONNEL, STUDENT, SCHOOL & COMMUNITY SUPPORT**

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

In the weeks following the shooting at Marjory Stoneman Douglas Senior High in Broward County, students, teachers and school communities have raised their voices to share concerns and anxiety related to school and campus safety. The Superintendent and District acted swiftly in initiating a process to assess crucial needs. Based on those needs, this Board and Superintendent, in collaboration with the Miami-Dade County Mayor and our State Attorney, authored a letter to legislative leadership, in both the Florida House and Senate, requesting funding to address the hardening of school infrastructure, and hiring of additional school resource officers and mental health counselors, among other requests. As we await the passage of bills that will provide funding to address those needs, we must turn our immediate attention to opportunities that improve practices and protocols within our control.

Results from a recent Miami-Dade County Council PTA/PTSA Parent Survey indicates parents cite a common concern over 'not enough teacher training' and 'students not knowing what to do' in the case of an emergency. The results of this survey echo the same concerns being voiced by members of our school communities through constituents' and students' emails and calls.   Undoubtedly, administrators and school personnel have received training in Code Red lockdown protocols and have two opportunities to enact the mandatory drills each year; however, an opportunity exists to ensure the lockdown protocol for an active shooter scenario, specifically, is practiced more frequently.

Miami-Dade County Public Schools embraces opportunities for improvement in all aspects of its functions and is committed to proactive actions that provide additional security to school campuses while reducing community fears and stress. This is evidenced by the immediate reflective analysis and subsequent strengthening of school site practices and enhanced security measures enacted by the District and by recent Board items, such as H12, passed unanimously at the February 21, 2018 School Board meeting and proffered by School Board Member Mari Tere Rojas, authorizing the Superintendent to review current emergency operating procedures, latest training opportunities, and applicable school board policies to ensure preparedness in response to all critical incidents.

As part of an organization dedicated to continuous improvement and as representatives of a concerned electorate expressing concerns with teacher and student training in the case of emergencies, we have the opportunity to further strengthen our guidance and frame expectations related to, specifically, lockdown protocols, as one component of our response to critical incidents.

Revised^2
H-9

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

ACTION PROPOSED BY
DR. LAWRENCE S. FELDMAN: That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida authorize the Superintendent to:

1. expedite the review and updating of lockdown protocols for an active shooter scenario, ensuring best practices are utilized, to include consideration of students with special needs, and subsequently } Revised
reflected in the Critical Incident Response Plan (CIRP)/Emergency Operations Plan;
2. ensure standardized and updated training on lockdown protocols for an active shooter scenario is provided to all personnel and made continuously available to new hires and substitute teachers and staff;
3. increase the number of drills implementing lockdown protocols for an active shooter scenario to equal the current emergency evacuation drill requirement, as soon as possible, but no later than May 1, 2018; and
4. communicate to parents and community stakeholders that updated lockdown protocols for an active shooter scenario have been implemented.