

Dr. Dorothy Bendross-Mindingall, Board Member

SUBJECT: PROVIDING A SAFE LEARNING ENVIRONMENT FOR STUDENTS, TEACHERS, AND STAFF

COMMITTEE: PERSONNEL, STUDENT, SCHOOL, & COMMUNITY SUPPORT

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

In the wake of the violent and horrific acts that took place at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Florida on February 14, 2018, the state legislature promulgated numerous measures in response to this tragedy. One of these measures included the option to arm teachers. The legislature passed Senate Bill 7026 which included the establishment of the Coach Aaron Feis Guardian Program ("Feis Guardian Program"), which allows for teachers and certain school board employees to be armed.

However, current School Board Policies, including 3217, *Weapons*, provide that: "Except for School Police, employees are prohibited from possessing, storing, making, or using a weapon, including a concealed weapon, in a school safety zone and any setting that is under the control and supervision of the Board for the purpose of school activities including, but not limited to, property leased, owned, or contracted for by the Board, a school-sponsored event, or in a Board-owned vehicle." This item is presented for the Board's consideration to unequivocally reaffirm these policies. In addition, it is requested that any funds allocated to the Coach Aaron Feis Guardian Program be redirected to the District for the training and hiring of additional school resource officers, school safety officers, and/or other certified law enforcement personnel.

} Revised

Allowing or requiring teachers and any other employees that are not part of law enforcement to carry firearms while on duty and on school grounds is not a viable solution, and only serves to place teachers, students, and other personnel at risk. Teachers are not trained law enforcement and weaponizing our schools will further burden teachers with a duty that has never been their responsibility and will only undermine school safety. Such a practice does not promote a wholesome learning environment. A teacher's responsibility is to nurture student learning and provide appropriate instruction to our students. We cannot expect a teacher to be responsible for preparing our students academically while expecting them to be prepared to discharge a firearm in the same setting. This is a responsibility best left to School Resource Officers and School Police; at no point should any teacher or other school personnel, other than school police or a school resource officer be permitted to carry a weapon while on the school grounds.

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

} Added

**Revised
H-17**

ACTION PROPOSED BY

DR. DOROTHY BENDROSS-MINDINGALL:

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

1. in light of recent statutory revisions to existing laws by the Florida legislature, review current Board policies and state statutes and report back to the Board with any necessary policy revisions or amendments to ensure that the prohibition of weapons on school grounds by any employee, except School Police, remains inviolate; and
2. request that any funds received by the District through the Feis Guardian Program be allocated for the training and hiring of additional school resource officers and school safety officers.

} Revised