

Dr. Martin Karp, Vice Chair

SUBJECT: E-CIGARETTE SENSORS ON SCHOOL CAMPUSES

COMMITTEE: FACILITIES & CONSTRUCTION

LINK TO STRATEGIC BLUEPRINT: INFORMED, ENGAGED & EMPOWERED STAKEHOLDERS

In last month's H-3 agenda item, the rapid increase in the use of e-cigarettes was detailed with a specific emphasis on the Juul product, which resembles a flash drive and can be charged in a laptop's USB port. Upon passage of the item, the Superintendent began to examine whether any revision or recommendation to current School Board policy should be pursued due to this latest smoking alternative, which has become widespread in its use on school campuses, partly as a result of its design that makes it easy for students to conceal and use in classrooms, bathrooms and lunchrooms.

While a nationwide crackdown on underage sales of e-cigarettes was announced this week, and calls for the suspension of online sales were made by medical professionals, the devices are already in the hands of many of our teenagers.

Other school districts have enacted new Board policies including automatic suspensions, and many schools are introducing education campaigns including online videos. In addition, teachers are being trained on how to spot the use of e-cigarettes. Some high schools have installed bathroom sensors that can detect e-cigarette vapor.

Based on numerous conversations with students at different schools, each student saw classmates using e-cigarettes on a regular basis on school grounds. This item requests that the Superintendent look into the effectiveness of installing bathroom sensors should outside funding be available to subsidize or help purchase the sensors to limit the costs to the District.

This item is of vital importance for five reasons. One reason is that teens who use e-cigarettes are more likely to try smoking/using tobacco cigarettes. A second reason is the effect on brain development. According to the Centers for Disease Control, young people who use nicotine products in any form are at risk for long-lasting effects, because nicotine affects the development of the brain's reward system and continued e-cigarette use leads to nicotine addiction, and can make other drugs more pleasurable to a teen's developing brain. A third reason is that students using e-cigarettes in school is against the law. A fourth reason is that vaping has been shown to worsen indoor air quality, specifically by increasing the concentration of nicotine, particulate matter, PAHs and aluminum—compounds that have been linked to lung and cardiovascular disease and cancer among other health effects. Secondhand vapors are still breathable after they're exhaled even if the vapor is less visible than traditional cigarette smoke. Other risks of secondhand vapors include accidental nicotine addition, mood disorders, and a lowering of impulse control. A fifth reason is that e-cigarettes can dispense marijuana.

The cost estimate of this item is less than \$10,000. This item has been reviewed and approved by the School Board Attorney's office as to form and legal sufficiency.

**ACTION PROPOSED BY
DR. MARTIN KARP:**

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

1. Review current data on the effectiveness of e-cigarette sensors; and,
2. If deemed worthy of this District's consideration based on the review of current data, determine whether outside funding exists for the purchase and installation of e-cigarette sensors; and,
3. Provide a response before the August 15, 2018 School Board Meeting.