

Dr. Dorothy Bendross-Mindingall, Board Member

SUBJECT: TRANSPORTATION AND SAFETY
COMMITTEE: PERSONNEL, STUDENT, SCHOOL & COMMUNITY SUPPORT
LINK TO STRATEGIC BLUEPRINT: SAFE, HEALTHY AND SUPPORTIVE LEARNING ENVIRONMENT

On or about February 10, 2017, two transportation vehicles, one carrying children, was shot at by what appears to have been a pellet or BB gun. Since this incident, we have had several shootings near our school shootings and other related incidents. Consequently many legislative initiatives have been taken in an attempt to secure the students and staff while they are at school. One issue that has not been addressed through the past legislative measures would be the issue of increased safety while transporting children.

In the aforementioned incident, the driver of the bus with children was headed to or was in the vicinity of Brownsville Middle School. Thankfully, there were no physical injuries that resulted from the incident. However, such an incident should be a call to action for safety protocols involving the transportation of children to be revisited just as they have been for schools.

As previously mentioned, the driver in this incident happened in very close proximity to Brownsville Middle School and was able to continue there to seek relief and guidance from a number of administrators, teachers, and staff that could assist with the situation. This item seeks to establish best practices for those who are transporting children in school buses, and other modes of transportation involving children, to and from school, and field trips. Should an emergency occur, all drivers should be equipped with a list of schools that are near and/or on their route so that they may take any necessary detour to the nearest school in case of such an emergency.

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

ACTION PROPOSED BY

DR. DOROTHY BENDROSS-MINDINGALL: That the School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, authorize the Superintendent to review school bus driving protocols to ensure that the safest routes are used in response to an emergency or life-threatening situation.