

Dr. Steve Gallon III, Board Member

**SUBJECT: OFFICE OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND OPPORTUNITY**

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

**LINK TO STRATEGIC**

**BLUEPRINT: INFORMED, ENGAGED, AND EMPOWERED STAKEHOLDERS**

The Miami-Dade County Public Schools (M-DCPS) is committed to policies and practices that promote and support expanded and equitable participation by small, micro, minority, and veteran owned businesses. Originally adopted by the School Board in November 2012 and updated in November 2014 and September 2015, Policy 6320.02, Small, Micro Business Enterprise (S/MBE) Program, governs this commitment and promotes the development, economic inclusion, and growth of small, micro, and minority businesses through the Office of Economic Opportunity (OEO).

The Office of Economic Opportunity (OEO) also promotes the economic development and growth of small, micro, minority, and veteran owned businesses through its certification program, community outreach programs, contract review and monitoring activities in addition to ongoing interaction with other municipal agencies, quasi-public agencies and the local marketplace.

Lastly, School Board Policy 6320.06 Diversity, Equity and Inclusion in Business Operations and Practices, states in part that, *"The School Board encourages and fosters an environment of diversity, equity, and inclusion in all of its business operations and practices. Inherent in this policy is the Board's commitment to ensuring that the rich tapestry of diversity, inclusion of varying ideas, backgrounds, and perspectives, if collectively recognized, creates cultural value and endorses the Board's obligation to eliminating perceived, artificial, or actual barriers to business engagement with the District... and flourish without the impediments or barriers of discrimination."*

The above policies, in alignment with the mission and work of OEO, serve as the guardrails of assurance that the Board's commitment to the expanded and equitable participation of small, micro, minority, and veteran owned businesses is reflected in their implementation. Over the past two years, the expectations and related work of this office have become an increased priority of the Board and community.

Subsequent and as a part of the Superintendent's commitment to *"fully review OEO and bring back a plan to strengthen the ability to meet the needs of the community,"* Board Agenda Item D-22 was presented and approved at the School Board Meeting of July 7, 2017 as a part of the Superintendent's Request for Approval of Realignment, Restructuring, and Reorganization as well as budget allocations included in FY 2018-2019 proposed and adopted budget.

Pursuant to School Board Policy 1001, District Organization, the Superintendent's Reorganization is subject to Board approval in order to ensure that *"the organization of this District shall be designed to meet the objectives set by the School Board, ensure clear lines of authority and responsibility, and define each position with clarity,"* thus, the Board approved the establishment of Office of Urban Affairs and Opportunity and related funding for positions and reporting structures. Through the approval of this item, the Board assumed and bears an obligation to ensure that, at minimum, the realignment *meets the objectives set by the School Board, ensures clear lines of authority and responsibility, and defines each position with clarity.* Additionally, the Board, pursuant to the commitments represented in School Board Agenda Item D-22, must ensure that the district implements *"compliance functions and improves the outputs, while responding to the community's needs and expectations,"* as clearly stated in the body of the item. To date, the Board is unable to make such as assessment, determination, or evaluation of the aforementioned.

A year after the Board's approval to establish the Office of Urban Affairs and Opportunity, along with newly established and/or reassigned positions, questions were raised regarding the mission, goals, operations, and impact of the office---with the most recent inquiry and request for update being made at the Facilities and Construction Committee meeting of October 3, 2018. To date, though requested and discussed on numerous instances, no formal update regarding the mission, scope, goals, and impact of this office has been provided to determine whether there has been a *"strengthening"* of *"compliance functions and improved outputs"* and that the community's needs and expectations are being met. This office as a department has no presence on the District's directory and there has been no evidence of any departmental activity within the District or throughout the community.

Notwithstanding the critical nature of the work envisioned for this office, the community expectations and sectors to be served, and issues to be addressed, there is a fiduciary responsibility borne by the Board associated with matter.

This item seeks to direct the Superintendent to provide an update to the Board on the mission, scope, goals, objectives, lines of authority, defined positions, work plan, and current and/or expected impact and desired outcomes of the Office of Urban Affairs and Opportunity, as well as relevant information regarding the same.

This item has been reviewed by the School Board Attorney for legal sufficiency.

**ACTION PROPOSED BY  
DR. STEVE GALLON III:**

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

1. provide an update in the form of a presentation to the Board on the mission, scope, goals, objectives, lines of authority, defined positions, work plan, activities to date, and current and/or expected impact and desired outcomes of the Office of Urban Affairs and Opportunity, as well as relevant information regarding the same at the Board Committee Meeting of March 6, 2019; and
2. make any policy, program, and/or personnel recommendations and/or amendments, as appropriate.