

Dr. Steve Gallon III, Board Member

Co-Sponsors: Dr. Dorothy Bendross-Mindingall
Ms. Susie V. Castillo
Dr. Lawrence S. Feldman
Ms. Maria Teresa Rojas

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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).

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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."*

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The Board and the Superintendent have a clear commitment to the expanded and equitable participation of small, micro, minority, women and veteran owned businesses. Over the past two years, the expectations and related work of this office have become an increased priority of the Board and community. As such, the Superintendent has made efforts to increase economic participation of S/MBE and Minority/Women-owned Business Enterprises (M/WBE) in District procurements. Such efforts include opportunities for training, mentoring, and participation in specialized programs designed to build capacity among such firms.

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It is widely known that, awareness, outreach, and the development of strategic partnerships are critical to any effort that hopes to rapidly bridge historic barriers to opportunity whether they be real or perceived. To address this work, the Superintendent created and the Board authorized, the new Office of Urban Affairs and Opportunity (OUAO) at the School Board meeting of July 7, 2018. It also approved related funding, positions, and reporting structures. In doing so, the Board is obligated to endure the achievement of related goals and objectives.

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The work envisioned for this office is of critical importance to the Board, Superintendent, and communities to be served. Since the establishment and subsequent staffing of the OUAO, it appears the newly formed OUAO has been impacted by difficulties that have delayed the launching of major programs or deliverables of significant interest, impact, and importance. Thus, the mission, scope, goals, and impact of this office are being requested to ensure that the community's needs and Board's expectations are being met.

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This item seeks to direct the Superintendent to provide an update to the Board on the status of the OUAO's 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.

REVISED

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 status of the Office of Urban Affairs and Opportunity, inclusive of 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 by the March Board Committee Meeting; and
2. make any policy, program, and/or personnel recommendations and/or amendments, as appropriate.

REVISED