

Ms. Maria Teresa Rojas, Board Member

Co-Sponsors: Ms. Perla Tabares Hantman, Chair
Dr. Dorothy Bendross-Mindingall
Ms. Susie V. Castillo
Dr. Steve Gallon III

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SUBJECT: AUTHORIZE THE SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS TO ESTABLISH A SAFETY AND SECURITY TASK FORCE TO REVIEW THE FINDINGS OF THE MARJORY STONEMAN DOUGLAS HIGH SCHOOL PUBLIC SAFETY COMMISSION INITIAL REPORT

COMMITTEE: PERSONNEL, STUDENT, SCHOOL, & COMMUNITY SUPPORT

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

Throughout the years, Miami-Dade County Public Schools (M-DCPS) has taken proactive measures to protect the safety and security of all students and the workforce. The Board and the Superintendent recognize the vital need to offer students and staff a safe, secure, compassionate, and disciplined learning environment.

During the past few months, the District has taken the initiative to expand, revise, develop, and implement safety and security plans, procedures, and mechanisms in consultation with law enforcement, health and social service, emergency management agencies, and other community members. A number of very impressive measures have already been implemented and the voters of Miami-Dade County overwhelmingly approved the referendum which will further support and enhance school safety and security.

At the same time, the heartbreaking incidents at Marjory Stoneman Douglas (MSD) Senior High School in Parkland, Florida, on February 14, 2018, have certainly raised safety and security measures to a new level. In order to further investigate what occurred at MSD and to provide recommendations to improve school safety and security measures statewide, the 2018 Florida Legislative session established the Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School Public Safety Commission within the Florida Department of Law Enforcement. The legislation represents a comprehensive approach to identifying issues presented by the tragedy that happened at the school. This Commission was formed to specifically analyze information from the school shooting and other mass violence incidents in the state and address recommendations and system improvements.

The Commission has finalized a 99-page draft list of recommendations which summarizes a number of proposals for consideration. Some can be implemented immediately and others may require additional time and financial resources. Most of the recommended changes involve upgrades and safety amendments to school campuses.

The Commission is expected to submit an initial report on its findings and recommendations to the Governor, the President of the Senate, and the Speaker of the House of Representatives by January 1, 2019, and may issue reports annually thereafter.

This agenda item seeks authorization for the Superintendent of Schools to establish a Safety and Security Task Force which should review and discuss current safety and security measures in Miami-Dade County Public Schools, related to the initial report of the Marjory Stoneman Douglas Public Safety Commission, report back to the Board by April 15, 2019, and schedule a Board Workshop to review the Task Force Report by May 15, 2019.

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

**ACTION PROPOSED BY
MS. MARIA TERESA ROJAS:**

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

1. establish a Safety and Security Task Force to review the findings of the Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School Public Safety initial report, comprised of School Board Member appointees, district administrators, principals, teachers, representatives from the labor unions, mental health specialists, law enforcement officers, parents, students, community and business leaders, and other stakeholders, as appropriate;
2. present to the Task Force the initial report of the Marjory Stoneman Douglas Public Safety Commission for their review, discussion, and recommendations;
3. present finding, recommendations, and possible solutions identified by the Task Force to the Board by April 15, 2019; and
4. schedule a Board Workshop to review the Task Force Report by May 15, 2019.