

Ms. Maria Teresa Rojas, Board Member

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SUBJECT: IMMEDIATE RESPONSE TO AN ACTIVE ASSAILANT INCIDENT

COMMITTEE: PERSONNEL, STUDENT, SCHOOL & COMMUNITY SUPPORT

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

The recent report by the Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School Public Safety Commission (MSDHSPSC), submitted to Florida’s Governor, the House Speaker, and the Senate President on January 2, 2019, may present a number of challenges to Miami-Dade County Public Schools as it prepares to eventually implement the recommendations of the report, as feasible and appropriate. With this in mind, at the School Board meeting of December 19, 2018, the Board approved Agenda Item H-9 which authorized the Superintendent of Schools to establish a task force to review the findings and recommendations of the MSDHSPSC, present a report to the Board, and schedule a workshop to discuss the recommendations of the Commission and the Task Force.

One of the items of great concern to the Commission which needs immediate attention is outlined in Chapter 5: Off-Campus Law Enforcement Response to the Shooting. The report found that there are inconsistencies as to how policies and procedures are enforced and the recommendation describes the need for not only active-shooter training for law enforcement officers but a clear policy to determine that officers *shall* enter the area/and or structure to preserve life. The word *may* will be replaced by the word *shall*.

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The report also summarizes the following on page 199: “The Broward Sheriff’s Office Active Shooter policy (SOP 4.37) states that if real-time intelligence exists, the sole deputy or a team of deputies may enter the area and/or structure to preserve life. A supervisor’s approval or on-site observation is not required for this decision.” The report further articulates that “The Coral Springs Police Department active shooter policy (General Order #221) states that if real-time intelligence exists, the sole officer or team of officers shall enter the area and/or structure to preserve life, and they will be referred to as the contact officer/ team.” This chapter of the report further concludes that “a significant difference between the two policies is found in two small words. BSO states that deputies *may* pursue the threat while CSPD’s policy stated officers *shall* pursue the threat.”

Therefore, this agenda item seeks to authorize the Superintendent of Schools to include in policy or in the Miami-Dade Schools Police standard operating procedures clear language related as to how police officers are to move forward in the event of an active assailant incident.

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. include in policy or in the Miami Dade Schools Police standard operating procedures clear language related as to how police officers are to move forward in the event of an active assailant incident; and
2. report back to the Board by February 13, 2019.