

Ms. Susie V. Castillo, Board Member

SUBJECT: SUPPORT FOR DEMOCRACY IN VENEZUELA

COMMITTEE: FISCAL ACCOUNTABILITY & GOVERNMENT RELATIONS

LINK TO STRATEGIC

BLUEPRINT: INFORMED, ENGAGED, & EMPOWERED STAKEHOLDERS

For the past few years Venezuela has been in a political and economic freefall plagued by hyperinflation reaching reported highs of 700%, which has—in part—led to nationwide shortages in basic daily needs such as food and medicine. Coupled with alleged civil rights violations and political oppression, Venezuela is not only facing a political but a humanitarian crisis. In recent months, the political crisis in Venezuela has only deepened as the Venezuelan National Assembly, the only legitimate branch of government duly elected by the Venezuelan people, cited the country's constitution in declaring their current president illegitimate, and thus leaving the office of the presidency vacant.

The situation in Venezuela is of great concern to residents of Miami-Dade County as approximately twenty-eight percent of the residents in the City of Doral alone, are Venezuelan. As Venezuela remains in political uncertainty, more and more families continue to flee the country. According to the United Nations, three million Venezuelans have left their home country since 2014. With the growing Venezuelan community in Miami-Dade County, Miami-Dade County Public Schools (M-DCPS) is now home to thousands of Venezuelan students.

At M-DCPS we are proud to provide a world class education that empowers all students to be productive lifelong learners and responsible global citizens. In our continuing effort to provide a world class education to all our students and to continue to encourage our students to be responsible global citizens, it is requested that the Board consider showing its support for our Venezuelan students, the people of Venezuela, and their efforts toward restoring constitutional democracy and human rights in Venezuela.

This item does not appear on the published agenda. There exists good cause to vary from the published agenda due to the urgency of the crisis in Venezuela, which appears to worsen with each passing day.

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

**GOOD CAUSE
H-25**

**ACTION PROPOSED BY
MS. SUSIE V. CASTILLO:**

That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, in continuing its efforts to provide a world class education to all our students and to continue to encourage our students to be responsible global citizens, show our support for our Venezuelan students in Miami-Dade County, by supporting the students and the people of Venezuela, and their efforts toward restoring constitutional democracy and human rights in Venezuela.