

Ms. Susie V. Castillo, Board Member

SUBJECT: BOARD MEETING EFFICIENCY

COMMITTEE: FACILITIES AND CONSTRUCTION

LINK TO STRATEGIC

BLUEPRINT: HIGHLY EFFECTIVE TEACHERS, LEADERS AND STAFF

Pursuant to Board Policy 0161, *Parliamentary Authority*, the parliamentary authority governing the School Board is the most recent edition of *Robert's Rules of Order, Newly Revised*, with the Board Attorney serving as parliamentarian at all Board meetings. *Robert's Rules of Order* is often regarded as the best method yet devised to enable assemblies of any size, with due regard for every member's opinion, to arrive at the general will on the maximum number of questions of varying complexity, in a minimum amount of time.

According to *Robert's Rules of Order*, for large, formal legislative bodies, unless the assembly has a special rule providing otherwise, no member can speak more than twice to the same question on the same day. Additionally, a member cannot make a second speech on the same question the same day until every member who desires to speak has had an opportunity to do so once. Moreover, unless the assembly has a special rule providing otherwise, a member, having obtained the floor while a debatable motion is immediately pending, can speak no longer than 10 minutes unless he/she obtains the consent of the assembly. Such permission can be given by unanimous consent, or by means of a motion to *Extend the Limits of Debate*, which requires a two-thirds vote without debate. Similarly, the motion to *Limit Debate* can limit debate by 1) reducing the number or length of speeches permitted, without including specific provision for closing debate; or 2) requiring that at a certain hour later or after debate for a specified length of time, debate shall be closed.

We have consistently been experiencing non-efficient meetings that feature long, drawn-out debates that not only take time from other items in the agenda but also exhaust various other resources. In an effort to achieve more efficient School Board Meetings, and taking *Robert's Rules of Order* into consideration, this item proposes a three (3) month pilot that would limit Board member speaking time to one (1) time, no longer than five (5) minutes, per board member, per item, with an opportunity for additional speaking time, no longer than five (5) minutes, after every Board member who wishes to speak on the item has done so. This would be immediately followed by a formal vote on the item.

Following the initial three (3) month pilot, the Board would then have the option to direct the Superintendent to initiate rulemaking proceedings to establish the pilot as Board policy.

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

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

That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, conduct a three (3) month pilot that would limit Board member speaking time to one (1) time, no longer than five (5) minutes, per board member, per item, with an opportunity for additional speaking time, no longer than five (5) minutes, after every Board member who wishes to speak on the item has done so, followed by a formal vote on the item.

