

Ms. Maria Teresa Rojas, Board Member

SUBJECT: LEGISLATIVE ADVOCACY

COMMITTEE: FISCAL ACCOUNTABILITY & GOVERNMENT RELATIONS

**LINK TO STRATEGIC
BLUEPRINT: EFFECTIVE AND SUSTAINABLE BUSINESS PRACTICES**

As locally elected officials chosen by the voters to represent the interest of all children, school board members have a profound responsibility to speak out for the children in their communities. To meet this challenge, school board members must take advantage of their political clout with policy makers. Legislators listen to the folks back home, especially those knowledgeable in the area in which they are advocating.

Throughout the years, the Board has vigorously advocated policy changes within the state and federal legislative process by framing an annual legislative agenda. The School Board's legislative program is developed by the participation and contribution from stakeholders, the Superintendent, and the Board, among many. Furthermore, through the outstanding work of the Office of Intergovernmental Affairs, Grants Administration and Community Engagement, the Board is periodically informed of legislative updates, proposed bills, amendments, and budgetary actions that eventually may impact the students of Miami-Dade County and the State of Florida.

Board members have advocated with state legislators and United States congressional members, both in the House and in the Senate. The Superintendent of Schools apprises the Board and seeks guidance to successfully advocate for the Board's legislative program. Nonetheless, the Board's success in advocating for their communities would be enhanced by positively interacting with our lobbyists both at the state and federal levels. Therefore, this agenda item is requesting to authorize the Chair of the School Board to schedule a work session with the Board's lobbyists as soon as it is feasible.

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 School Board Chair to schedule a work session with the Board's legislative lobbyists as soon as it is feasible.