

Dr. Dorothy Bendross-Mindingall, Board Member

**SUBJECT: EXPLORING MODIFICATION OF SCHOOL BOARD
PURCHASING POLICIES AND PROCEDURES**

COMMITTEE: FISCAL ACCOUNTABILITY & GOVERNMENT RELATIONS

LINK TO STRATEGIC

BLUEPRINT: INFORMED, ENGAGED AND EMPOWERED STAKEHOLDERS

Miami Dade County Public Schools has aggressively pursued equity wherever disparity exists and approved School Board Policy 6320.06, *Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion in Business Operations and Practices*, which states in part that the “the Board is committed to fostering an environment in which all businesses are free to participate in business opportunities with the District and flourish without the impediments or barriers of discrimination.” To maximize on the opportunities provided to Small/Micro Owned Businesses, Minority/Women Owned businesses, and Veteran Owned Businesses the School Board must continuously review and updates its purchasing policies and procedures to align with its stated goals in the Board’s continuing pursuit of equity. With a goal of being fair and equitable, policies and procedures that are reviewed should be focused on identifying and removing inconsistencies, unintentional biases, and barriers for the aforementioned business types.

School Board Policy 6320 “Purchasing Policy,” provides for such an opportunity to create additional procedures allowing for increased Small/Micro/Minority/Women Owned firm participation. In addition, School Board Policy 6320.02 “Small/Micro, Minority/Women, and Veteran Business Enterprise Program Policy,” provides that the Board shall take all necessary, reasonable, and legal action to prevent discrimination and to ensure that all businesses, including M/WBEs, are afforded the maximum equitable opportunity to participate in the District’s procurement process, including: (i) ensuring that the Office of Economic Opportunity (OEO) is included on all selection committees for bids, contracts and professional services; and (ii) the OEO shall review contract specifications to ensure that they are not unnecessarily restricting the availability and participation of S/MBEs, M/WBE, and VBE businesses in the procurement and contracting process.

Additionally, when ITB’s, RFP’s, or RFQ’s for commodities or contractual services are solicited often the same Small/Micro Owned Businesses, Minority/Women Owned businesses, and/or Veteran Owned Businesses are selected. Although, these actions maybe unintentional in regards to the selection process, this creates a perception among bidders that the School District is only interested in awarding contracts to the same businesses. This sentiment is shared predominantly in communities that have historically been disenfranchised.

As a result, it is the intent of this item to request that the Superintendent conduct a study to determine if it is feasible to:

- Explore the possibility for the Office of Economic Opportunity (OEO) to meet with the end-user department prior to solicitation documents being finalized in order to determine which competitive solicitation process is most aligned with diversity, equity, and inclusion; and
- Award additional points, percentage points, and/or a combination of incentives to Small/Micro Owned Businesses, Minority/Women Owned businesses, and Veteran Owned Businesses that have not been contracted by the School Board in the last six months.

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

**ACTION PROPOSED BY
DR. DOROTHY BENDROSS-MINDINGALL:**

That the School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, authorize the Superintendent to explore if it would be feasible to:

1. require the Office of Economic Opportunity (OEO) to meet with the end-user department prior to solicitation documents being finalized in order to determine which competitive solicitation process is most aligned with diversity, equity, and inclusion;
2. award additional points, percentage points, and/or a combination of incentives to small owned businesses, micro owned Businesses, veteran owned businesses, minority owned businesses, and women-owned small businesses that have not been contracted by the School Board in the last six months; and
3. provide a status update to the School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, by the November 20, 2019 regular School Board Meeting.