

Ms. Maria Teresa Rojas, Board Member

SUBJECT: PROVIDE RELIEF EFFORTS FOR PUERTO RICO

COMMITTEE: FISCAL ACCOUNTABILITY & GOVERNMENT RELATIONS

LINK TO STRATEGIC

BLUEPRINT: INFORMED, ENGAGED, AND EMPOWERED STAKEHOLDERS

Puerto Rico is an island territory of the United States and consists of a main island, four small islands, and hundreds of cays and islets. The 100-mile-long archipelago in the Caribbean has endured devastating hurricanes in recent years, including Hurricane Maria in 2017, which caused a humanitarian crisis. Most recently, Puerto Rico endured a 6.4 magnitude earthquake, with loss of life, damage to homes, businesses, and schools, and loss of power to a majority of the island.

The latest earthquake follows a series of quakes affecting the territory since late December 2019, to include a 5.8 magnitude quake. Following the latest earthquake, Puerto Rico's governor has declared a state of emergency.

Miami-Dade County Public Schools (M-DCPS) has a record of assisting neighboring communities during a time of crisis. If approved by the Board, M-DCPS will assist in restoring normalcy to students, families and neighborhoods in Puerto Rico, by having District staff work with representatives of known agencies to provide relief. Such relief may be school supplies, identified surplus classroom chairs and/or any school furniture, as may be available, for Puerto Rico. Any donations of District property shall be made in accordance with applicable Florida Statutes and Board policy.

This item does not appear in the regularly published agenda. There is good cause to vary from the published agenda because of the urgent need in Puerto Rico.

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) provide relief efforts for Puerto Rico by donating school supplies, surplus classroom chairs and/or any school furniture, as may be available; and
- 2) coordinate transport of donations, as may be available, with identified willing agencies, at no cost to the District.

**Good Cause
H-12**