

Ms. Maria Teresa Rojas, Board Member

**SUBJECT:           AUDIT/REVIEW OF THE DISTRICT'S READINESS AND CAPABILITIES IN THE ACQUISITION OF A LARGE-SCALE INSTRUCTIONAL TECHNOLOGY PLATFORM**

**COMMITTEE:       FISCAL ACCOUNTABILITY & GOVERNMENT RELATIONS**

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

The COVID-19 pandemic has had a tremendous impact on the teaching and learning process in Miami-Dade County Public Schools. Our teachers, parents, school-site administrators and the entire workforce has provided incredible support to our students during these very difficult times. The shutdown and immediate transition into an online delivery model in March, 2020 was unprecedented; however, this school district managed to deliver a successful online instructional model with hardly any time to properly prepare all stakeholders.

On the first day of school this past Monday, August 31<sup>st</sup>, our students, teachers, and parents experienced connectivity challenges by a malfunction of hardware powered by Cisco Systems' operating software. On the second day of school, more issues were experienced by the entire Miami-Dade County family by what appears to have been a targeted and intentional cyber-attack designed to disrupt access to online systems. Regardless of whether these challenges were connectivity issues, capacity issues, or a cyber-attack, it is time to learn from these horrible experiences and move forward so that this never happens again in Miami-Dade County Public Schools.

Therefore, this agenda item seeks to direct the Chief Auditor to perform an audit/review to determine the District's readiness and capabilities in the acquisition of a large-scale instructional technology platform; direct the Chief Auditor to engage an external firm to perform network security testing services of the District biennially; and authorize Financial Services to provide the biennially funding for the network testing services not to exceed \$50,000, starting with the 2020-2021 fiscal year.

Good cause exists to vary from the established agenda because the information technology and cyber security issues experienced in this school district arose after the School Board agenda was published, and these are matters of great importance to our students, parents, teachers, and the entire Miami-Dade County Public Schools community.

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

**Good Cause  
H-14**

**ACTION PROPOSED BY  
MS. MARIA TERESA ROJAS:**

That The School Board of Miami-Dade County,  
Florida,

1. direct the Chief Auditor to perform an audit/review to determine the District's readiness and capabilities in the acquisition of a large-scale instructional technology platform;
2. direct the Chief Auditor to engage an external firm to perform network security testing services of the District biennially; and
3. authorize Financial Services to provide the biennially funding for the network testing services not to exceed \$50,000, starting with the 2020-2021 fiscal year.