

Ms. Maria Teresa Rojas, Board Member

Co-Sponsors: Ms. Perla Tabares Hantman, Chair  
Dr. Steve Gallon III, Vice Chair  
Dr. Dorothy Bendross-Mindingall  
Dr. Lubby Navarro

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**SUBJECT: REQUEST TO ADOPT AN EMERGENCY POLICY TO AUTHORIZE PARTICIPATION BY BOARD MEMBERS VIA TELEPHONIC OR VIRTUAL MEANS DURING PUBLIC BOARD MEETINGS UNDER EXTRAORDINARY CIRCUMSTANCES RELATED TO COVID-19 AND TO AMEND SCHOOL BOARD BYLAW 0165, *PUBLIC MEETINGS*, TO AUTHORIZE BOARD MEMBERS TO PARTICIPATE IN PUBLIC BOARD MEETINGS VIA COMMUNICATIONS MEDIA TECHNOLOGY IN EXTRAORDINARY CIRCUMSTANCES**

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**COMMITTEE: FISCAL ACCOUNTABILITY & GOVERNMENT RELATIONS**

**LINK TO STRATEGIC**

**BLUEPRINT: INFORMED, ENGAGED AND EMPOWERED STAKEHOLDERS**

As COVID-19 cases continue to rise and an elected official may have to quarantine up to 14 days, it may be in the best interest of the School Board for Board members to be given the opportunity to address the business of the Board during Committee and School Board meetings virtually or through teleconferencing when a quorum is physically present.

Therefore, this item seeks to request the Board to direct the School Board Attorney to present, for the Board's consideration, an agenda item that would seek the adoption of an emergency policy that authorizes a Board member to participate in public Board meetings via telephonic or virtual means when extraordinary circumstances related to COVID-19 prevent that Board Member from being physically present at the meeting. If approved by the Board, this emergency policy would be effective upon adoption and will remain in effect for 90 days. Furthermore, this item requests that the Board authorize the Superintendent of Schools to initiate rulemaking to amend School Board Bylaw 0165, *Public Meetings*, to provide for an absentee Board Member to request permission to participate in public Board meetings via communications media technology so long as a quorum of Board Members is physically present. The proposed amended language should be similar to the one currently in School Board Bylaw 0152 *Officers*, which states "Participation by a physically absent member shall be allowed only in extraordinary circumstances as determined by a majority of members physically present."

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## Revised Good Cause H-9

This item does not appear in the published Agenda. There is good cause to vary from the published agenda as the number of COVID-19 cases have recently risen in Miami-Dade County, and the Board should have an opportunity to address how to effectively facilitate the business of the School Board in the event a Board member may have to quarantine for up to 14 days during the COVID-19 pandemic.

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

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

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

1. direct the School Board Attorney to present, for the Board's consideration, an agenda item that would seek the adoption of an emergency policy that would authorize Board member participation in public Board meetings through communications media technology under extraordinary circumstances related to COVID-19, so long as a physical quorum is present, effective upon adoption and to remain in effect for 90 days, unless extended, superseded, or modified by the Board; and
2. authorize the Superintendent of Schools to initiate rulemaking proceedings in accordance with the Administrative Procedure Act to amend Board Bylaw 0165, *Public Meetings*, to authorize a Board Member participation in public Board meetings through communications media technology under extraordinary circumstances, so long as a quorum of School Board Members is physically present at the meeting.

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