

Ms. Lucia Baez-Geller, Board Member

**SUBJECT: EXPLORE THE FEASIBILITY OF OFFERING A REMOTE OPTION FOR PUBLIC PARTICIPATION AT SCHOOL BOARD MEETINGS**

**COMMITTEE: PERSONNEL, STUDENT, SCHOOL & COMMUNITY SUPPORT**

**LINK TO STRATEGIC**

**PLAN: INFORMED, ENGAGED, & EMPOWERED STAKEHOLDERS**

According to School Board Policy 0169.1, any citizen may address the Board directly concerning any subject that lies within the jurisdiction of the Board. Within this Board policy, there are specific regulations and practices that the public must adhere to while addressing specific agenda items and/or speaking during the public hearing. Currently, the policy only includes provisions for in-person speakers. However, due to the time commitment that is required at School Board meetings, citizens may not be able to attend in order to give public input. During the school year, it is even more complicated for parents and students to attend.

To encourage participation, increase engagement, and promote transparency, an additional option for remote participation should be offered for School Board meetings and any other public hearings that require public input from constituents. Other local and national municipalities utilize this method for public hearings, including video or voicemail recordings with specific time limits for the record.

These remote options need to be monitored and enforced just as the in-person public hearings are, with the same restrictions and regulations that are outlined in the School Board policy. Members of the public will also have to use the same registration system that in-person speakers use and must adhere to the same decorum procedures. To promote accessibility and equity, efforts should also be made to provide assistance to individuals who may require additional guidance to access this platform.

This item seeks to direct the Superintendent to explore the feasibility of offering more options to constituents for remote participation during School Board meetings, specifically live remote video, voicemails, or video clips, with enforced time limits. The feasibility study should also include a review of the cost of implementation, the effectiveness and efficiency of including this option, and a comparison of virtual platform options. This item also calls for a report to the Board at the Personnel, Student, School, and Community Support Committee Meeting of November 8, 2023.

This item has been reviewed and approved by the Office of the General Counsel as to form and legal sufficiency.

**ACTION PROPOSED BY  
MS. LUCIA BAEZ-GELLER:**

That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida,  
direct the Superintendent to:

1. explore the feasibility of offering members of the public the option to participate at School Board meetings through remote or virtual means;
2. review the cost of implementation, the effectiveness and efficiency of including this option, and a comparison of virtual platform options; and
3. present a report regarding the feasibility of this item at the Personnel, Student, School, and Community Support Committee Meeting of November 8, 2023.