

Ms. Lucia Baez-Geller, Board Member

SUBJECT: INCREASING STUDENT INVOLVEMENT AND CIVIC ENGAGEMENT

COMMITTEE: ACADEMICS, INNOVATION, EVALUATION & TECHNOLOGY

LINK TO STRATEGIC PLAN: SAFE, HEALTHY, & SUPPORTIVE LEARNING ENVIRONMENTS

The Miami-Dade County School Board is committed to transparency and accessibility and recognizes the importance of public input from all stakeholders. As key stakeholders, students play a crucial role in the educational system. The School Board is dedicated to guaranteeing students the right to be heard and engage in decision-making processes.

This item aims to explore the feasibility of implementing procedures that will contribute to increased student engagement and involvement. This will further the district's mission of fostering civic engagement and encouraging responsible and active citizens. It will also provide students with the ability to engage and provide input to decisions that significantly influence their own education.

These action steps include, but are not limited to:

Making Direct Input More Accessible: To address issues raised by students, the district should explore implementing a more accessible communication system for students to submit their questions, comments and/or concerns directly to the Student Advisor. Many students do not know how to reach the student advisor, or they are unaware they can reach out to provide input. A more robust and innovative system could assist in obtaining greater representation of student input and streamline the process of collecting feedback, while also ensuring adequate support for the student advisor.

Student Town Hall Forums or School Site Focus Groups: The district should explore establishing forums in each district, or school site focus groups, providing students with a platform to address district staff directly and an opportunity to voice concerns regarding issues that impact the student body.

These changes will reaffirm the School Board's commitment to empowering students and encouraging the development of leadership skills and civic responsibility. This item aims to direct the Superintendent to explore the feasibility of implementing protocols and procedures that protect student interests and allow students to become active participants within the school system.

This item has been reviewed and approved by the Office of 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 examining existing protocols and see what is and what is not working and if deemed necessary what may be enhanced to support and amplify student voices. ~~developing and implementing protocols and procedures to support an increase in student engagement and participation throughout the school system.~~
- 2. ~~Report~~ bring back to the Board for Board approval no later than the Board meeting of May 15, 2024.

REVISED
AT DAIS
BY
BOARD
ACTION