

Ms. Perla Tabares Hantman

**SUBJECT: CONCERNS REGARDING CHILDREN BEING DETAINED AT THE
HOMESTEAD TEMPORARY SHELTER FOR UNACCOMPANIED
CHILDREN**

**LINK TO STRATEGIC
BLUEPRINT: SAFE, HEALTHY AND SUPPORTIVE LEARNING ENVIRONMENT**

Over the last several weeks the federal government has implemented a “zero-tolerance” policy for illegal immigration requiring anyone apprehended crossing the border between ports of entry to be referred for criminal prosecution. This policy stance has resulted in the United States immigration authorities detaining and taking custody of almost 2,000 children.

Recently, it has been revealed that up to 1,000 children may be transported to and housed at the recently re-opened Homestead Temporary Shelter for Unaccompanied Children overseen by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) and Office of Refugee Resettlement (ORR). Given that this facility is located within Miami-Dade County, it is incumbent upon this Board, to make the federal administration aware of our concerns for these children and to ensure that their education is being provided for as is required by Article IX, Section 1(a), of the Florida Constitution which states it is “a paramount duty of the state to make adequate provision for the education of all children residing within its borders.”

It is further incumbent upon this Board to support our Congressional Delegation in their efforts to gain information about, and provide for, the wellbeing of these children; and to support the Superintendent in his efforts to initiate a dialogue with the appropriate federal authorities regarding educational services available to these children while they are being held in this facility or other locations in our community.

This item has been reviewed by the School Board Attorney and has been approved as to form and legal sufficiency. This item was not part of the published agenda. There is good cause to vary from the published agenda because the concern for the wellbeing and education of unaccompanied children, whose presence in Miami-Dade County only recently came to light, is of paramount importance and cannot wait to be addressed until the next regularly scheduled meeting of the Board.

**ACTION PROPOSED BY CHAIR
PERLA TABARES HANTMAN:**

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

- 1) Support the Miami-Dade County Congressional Delegation in their efforts to provide for the wellbeing of children detained at the Homestead Temporary Shelter For Unaccompanied Children; and
- 2) Support the Superintendent in his efforts to ensure that these children receive educational services that they are entitled to under the Florida Constitution.

**Good Cause
H-1**