

Freddie Woodson, Deputy Superintendent
District/School Operations

SUBJECT: CONTINUE RELIEF EFFORTS FOR HAITI AND DONATE SURPLUS SCHOOL BUSES; COORDINATE TRANSPORT OF SCHOOL BUSES AND/OR DONATED MATERIALS WITH OTHER WILLING AGENCIES, AND PERIODICALLY UPDATE THE BOARD ON THESE EFFORTS

COMMITTEE: INNOVATION, EFFICIENCY & GOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS

LINK TO STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK: EDUCATION

Background

On January 12, 2010, the Republic of Haiti was struck by the strongest earthquake in 200 years. The loss of life and property was catastrophic. During the School Board meeting of January 13, 2010, the School Board authorized Agenda Item A-2, a good cause item in support of the relief efforts to Haiti. Miami-Dade County Public Schools began a District-wide campaign for Haiti relief in collecting money and goods to aid the survivors.

Status of Humanitarian Aid Efforts

- District staff has identified ten surplus buses that are no longer in use.
- Staff from District/School Operations, and Facilities Operations - Maintenance, is currently coordinating the process of obtaining shipping information for ten school buses to be shipped to Haiti for use as classrooms.
- Three buses are ready to be shipped to Haiti. The buses have been cleaned, painted, and waxed by the vocational education students at Robert Morgan Educational Center, Southwest Miami Senior High School, and Miami Senior High School. In addition, staff at Stores & Mail Distribution have furnished the buses using surplus furniture and have stocked them with essential supplies donated by our schools and local businesses.

President René Préal, First Lady Elizabeth Préal, and Education Minister Joel Desrosiers Jean Pierre have been kept apprised regarding the District's efforts.

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District staff will continue to work with representatives from the government of Haiti as well as public and private partners to provide material support on a continuing basis. Any donations of District property shall be made in accordance with applicable Florida Statutes and Board rules.

RECOMMENDED:

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

- 1) continue relief efforts for the Republic of Haiti and donate surplus buses and/or materials, as may be available;
- 2) coordinate transport of surplus school buses and donated items with other willing agencies; and
- 3) periodically update the Board regarding these efforts.