

Dr. Dorothy Bendross-Mindingall, Board Member

SUBJECT: AUTHORIZATION TO DIRECT THE SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS TO CONDUCT A STUDY TO DETERMINE THREE LOCATIONS IN DISTRICT 2 AND THE FEASIBILITY THEREOF TO ESTABLISH K-8 CENTERS FOR THE START OF THE 2011-2012 SCHOOL YEAR

COMMITTEE: INSTRUCTIONAL EXCELLENCE AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

LINK TO STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK: EDUCATION

In accordance with Board Rule 6Gx13- 6A-1.48, which purports that the K-8 Center “offers an extensive safety net to ensure that all students are ready for the transition to ninth grade, including a support team for every child...”, this item requests authorization for the review of District 2 schools to fulfill the goal as outlined in Section I B of “providing equitable support for successful transition to senior high school across the District.”

There are 28 K-8 Centers in Miami-Dade County Public Schools. None of these centers are located in School Board District 2. The students, parents, and communities in District 2 would be much better served with the expanded educational options provided by having K-8 Centers. Adding K-8 Centers in District 2 will also help with increasing school utilization, whereas many schools in District 2 are underutilized, with 75% of elementary schools utilization below 90%, and many K-8 Centers are over-utilized, with only 25% of schools utilization under 90%.

There numerous initiatives and studies that champion the benefits of K-8 Centers including the Board Rule that established them within the District. Many districts around the nation are moving toward the K-8 environment, as they are in Pittsburgh and Kansas City, to assist students with the transition to high school.

ACTION PROPOSED BY

DR. DOROTHY BENDROSS-MINDINGALL:

That the School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, direct the Superintendent of Schools to conduct a study to determine three locations in School Board District 2 and the feasibility thereof to establish K-8 Centers for the start of the 2011-2012 school year.