Office of the School Board Members Board Meeting of January 18, 2012

Ms. Raquel Regalado, Board Member

SUBJECT:

OPPOSE HB 1191 AND SB 1718 RELATING TO THE

PARENT EMPOWERMENT ACT

COMMITTEE:

INNOVATION, RELATIONS

EFFICIENCY

8

GOVERNMENTAL

LINK TO STRATEGIC

FRAMEWORK:

STUDENT, PARENT AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Bills SB 1718 and HB 1191 have been filed for the 2012 Legislative Session, which would grant parents of public school students who are assigned to underperforming schools to direct the school district to implement a specified option for school improvement. The bills provide that if more than half of the parents of an elementary, middle or high school, sign and date a petition requesting a specified school improvement option, the local school board must submit that improvement plan to the State Board of Education in lieu of recommended school district school improvement option. The proposed legislation has been coined the "Parent Empowerment Act."

The proposed legislation provides that it is the right of parents to be informed of performance rating of instructional personnel assigned to their child and requires that upon request by a parent of a public school student, the superintendent will provide a copy of the performance evaluation of each teacher assigned to their child. Additionally, the legislation provides for the right of parents to be notified if child is assigned to a teacher that is teaching out-of-field and of the availability of virtual instruction with certified instructors. The district also would have to notify parents if any of their child's teachers has two consecutive annual performance evaluation ratings of unsatisfactory, two annual performance evaluation ratings of needs improvement.

The Florida Parent Teacher Association and other parent groups have indicated their opposition to this legislation.

This item does not appear on the published agenda. There exists good cause to vary from the published agenda given that the legislative session for the above-referenced bills began after the deadline for the publication of the agenda.

ACTION PROPOSED BY MS. RAQUEL REGALADO:

That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, oppose HB 1191 and SB 1718 related to the Parent Empowerment Act.

Good Cause H-31

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