

Dr. Lawrence S. Feldman, Vice Chair

Co-Sponsor: Ms. Susie Castillo, Board Member

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SUBJECT: UPDATE OF PROCEDURES AND POLICIES TO PERMIT STUDENT PAYMENTS ONLINE

COMMITTEE: FISCAL ACCOUNTABILITY

LINK TO STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK: STUDENT, PARENT, AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

At its February 13, 2013 meeting, the School Board approved Agenda Item H-13, which requested that the Superintendent conduct a review of school district policies related to the sale of products, such as school pictures, class rings, graduation announcements, and yearbooks to students, and to explore more flexible payment collection and processing options for all students. Based on the outcome of this review, Item H-13 requested that the Superintendent provide recommendations to facilitate student payment online or through other electronic means.

As a result of the Superintendent's review of these processes, staff evaluated RFP responses for an adult education student accounting system. Functionalities and viability of the proposed software packages were to be thoroughly reviewed and tested. It was anticipated that full implementation of the selected software accounting system would commence in the 2013-2014 school year, once the pilot phase was completed and pending its adoption and success according to the staff follow up memorandum issued in April 2013. It should be noted that during this time period students in secondary schools already used online or electronic payment options.

Having completed the pilot phase, currently the district is in the process of implementing the chosen and Board-approved online software system, ACELO, which will allow students and parents to make payments online for school lunches, pictures, yearbooks, etc. The adult education program is the first to start using the program and implementation for the rest of the schools is slated for the summer of 2015 according to an update provided at the December 2014 Audit and Budget Advisory Committee.

As such, in order to facilitate electronic purchases by students for such school related products as school pictures and the like, school district practices and policies should be amended in order to allow for electronic payment methods for these products by all students. This item is presented for the Board's consideration, to direct the Superintendent to initiate rulemaking proceedings, in accordance with the Administrative Procedure Act, to amend applicable School Board policies to permit students to pay for such products as school pictures, class rings, and yearbooks online or through other electronic means.

**ACTION PROPOSED BY VICE CHAIR
DR. LAWRENCE S. FELDMAN:**

That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, direct the Superintendent of Schools to initiate rulemaking proceedings, in accordance with the Administrative Procedure Act, amending applicable School Board Policies to permit students to pay for such products as school pictures, class rings, graduation announcements, and yearbooks online or through other electronic means.