

Ms. Lubby Navarro, Board Member

**SUBJECT: WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES IN MARITIME TRADES**

**COMMITTEE: ACADEMICS, EVALUATION AND TECHNOLOGY**

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

Miami-Dade County holds a preeminent position in the Maritime industry, which is critical to 21<sup>st</sup> century economic growth for our community and for our State.

Globally, much like other industries, the maritime sector is preparing to face the challenges of an aging workforce that is not being replaced by qualified new workers, compounded with the need to obtain skilled workers to ensure the viability of this growing industry in our community.

Exploring the development of a maritime trades curriculum and certification programs, through the District's Adult and Vocational Education Programs, will allow students to access these programs in order to fill high-priority maritime positions in our community and embark in a career in the maritime trades.

The Maritime Industry is a vital targeted area of high job growth in our community, with high wage paying jobs available in a mired of maritime trades at the Port of Miami, Miami River, boat yards and other facilities. This industry is facing an aging workforce, technological advancements growth in offshore energy production in the Gulf of Mexico, the expanded Panama Canal and historical industrial expansion are factors that will compound the workforce shortage even further.

In order to ensure the viability of the Maritime industry, maritime vocational trades training programs are needed to be developed in our community, to serve a skilled workforce for this high-job growth area.

In an effort to provide our students with new educational opportunities, this item seeks to direct the Superintendent to explore the feasibility of developing workforce educational training programs through the District's Adult and Vocational Programs in the area of maritime trades. Providing such educational opportunities for our students will be beneficial, as it will allow them to access high-wage paying jobs within the maritime trades.

**ACTION PROPOSED BY  
LUBBY NAVARRO:**

That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, direct the Superintendent to explore the feasibility of developing workforce educational training programs for the maritime trades through the District's Adult and Vocational Programs.