

Dr. Dorothy Bendross-Mindingall, Board Member

**SUBJECT: REVIEW OF ALL STATUTORILY MANDATED PAYMENTS AND RECEIVABLES REQUIRED BY MIAMI-DADE COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

**COMMITTEE: FISCAL ACCOUNTABILITY**

**LINK TO STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK: FINANCIAL EFFICIENCY/STABILITY**

Miami-Dade County Public Schools (M-DCPS) Fiscal Year 2015-16 tentative budget stands at over \$4.8 billion. Throughout the last decade, Miami-Dade County has seen its fair share of multibillion dollar budgetary swings, which constantly challenges us to be flexible when allocating funds to those whom they rightfully belong; the more than 350,000 students we serve in Miami-Dade County. Therefore, we are accountable for every dollar received and every dollar spent. Through the tireless efforts of this School Board and our Superintendent, Alberto Carvalho, Miami, Florida has the highest rate of return on educational investment amongst the 90 largest cities in the United States.

We have been able to accomplish this goal despite the cuts in educational funding, as well as the reserve shortfall M-DCPS has suffered. As a result of the tremendous work conducted by M-DCPS Chief Auditor, Jose F. Montes de Oca, during his audit of the Miami-Dade County Property Appraiser's Office, we were able to prevent a \$1.6 million payment to aforementioned entity. The results of this audit has brought us a little closer to closing the multimillion dollar gap created by the reserve shortfalls that have plagued M-DCPS during the last several years.

The citizens of this community have entrusted us with the moral responsibility to efficiently allocate every dollar we receive. Moreover, we are expected to utilize these funds to properly equip our students with the tools, experience, and knowledge that will help prepare them for a lifetime of success. Ensuring that all statutorily mandated payments are reviewed would provide an added layer of protection for M-DCPS and the tax payers of Miami-Dade County.

**ACTION PROPOSED BY**

**DR. DOROTHY BENDROSS-MINDINGALL:**

That The School Board of Miami-Dade County Florida, authorize the Superintendent School Board Attorney and Chief Auditor to create:

1. an electronic master list of any and all statutorily mandated payments and receivables to/from local, state and/or

federal governmental entities (i.e. Value Adjustment Board, etc.);

2. a comprehensive review system (annual, bi-annual, etc.) specifically targeted towards the list of statutorily mandated payments and receivables that is created.
3. conduct a review and provide additional recommendations, if any, that would improve and/or enhance the comprehensive review system created specifically targeting the list of statutorily mandated payments and receivables that will be created.