

Dr. Martin Karp, Board Member

**SUBJECT: THE SCHOOL CAFETERIA: RESPECT, APPRECIATION AND RESPONSIBILITY**

**COMMITTEE: PERSONNEL SERVICES AND STUDENT AND SCHOOL SUPPORT**

**LINK TO STRATEGIC BLUEPRINT: SAFE, HEALTHY AND SUPPORTIVE LEARNING ENVIRONMENT**

In Agenda Item H-5 proffered at the Board meeting of January 14, 2015, concerns regarding the school cafeteria environment were delineated and specific actions were proposed.

As a result of staff follow-up, School Operations in collaboration with principals began developing a set of *Positive Mealtime Experience Protocols*, which is included in this month's Opening of Schools Guide. In addition, elementary school principals are developing action plans to be included in each school's Wellness Council.

To further strengthen these actions, this agenda item proposes the consideration of a more direct role for students. Two ideas for consideration include the selection of students at each elementary school to be provided with opportunities to serve meals and to clean following meals.

Direct exposure and involvement may contribute towards greater respect and appreciation for the work performed by cafeteria employees including lunchroom monitors, and may provide greater insight into the work required to prepare and serve meals. Involvement in clean-up efforts empowers students with a greater understanding of what is necessary to prepare the lunchroom for the next shift and/or day, and to assume greater responsibility as stakeholders at their schools.

**ACTION PROPOSED BY**

**DR. MARTIN KARP:** That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, authorize the Superintendent to:

1. Explore implementing roles for students to experience meaningful learning opportunities and experiences in elementary school cafeterias, and;
2. Provide a response by the December 2015 School Board meeting.