

Ms. Perla Tabares Hantman, Chair

SUBJECT: SCHOOL BOARD ENDORSEMENT RECOGNIZING OCTOBER AS NATIONAL BULLYING PREVENTION AWARENESS MONTH THROUGHOUT MIAMI-DADE COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

COMMITTEE: INNOVATION, GOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

LINK TO STRATEGIC BLUEPRINT: SAFE, HEALTHY & SUPPORTIVE LEARNING ENVIRONMENT

October is designated as National Bullying Prevention Awareness Month. This month is dedicated to raising awareness about the importance to stop bullying and cyber bullying in our schools.

Bullying is defined as unwanted, aggressive behavior among school aged children that involves a real or perceived power imbalance. The behavior is repeated, or has the potential to be repeated, over time. Bullying includes actions such as making threats, spreading rumors, attacking someone physically or verbally, and excluding someone from a group or purpose. There are many roles that students take when it pertains to bullying such as bullying other students, being bullied, or witness bullying. By promoting awareness of bullying, students are educated and can distinguish when bullying is taking place either to them or to other students.

The School District has taken measures through Board Policy 5517.01, *Bullying and Harassment*, to prevent any form of bullying amongst students in the public school system. Establishing a school culture of acceptance, tolerance and respect is key to the prevention of bullying in our schools. Furthermore, it is important that we promote awareness and educate students on this topic through other means such as events, meetings, flyers, and school website.

To advance this important anti-bullying initiative at Miami-Dade County Public Schools, it is recommended that the School Board endorse October as National Bullying Prevention Awareness Month and encourage a year-round habit for students, parents and District employees to be aware, educate, and report any form of bullying to the school.

**ACTION PROPOSED BY CHAIR
PERLA TABARES HANTMAN:**

That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, endorse October as National Bullying Prevention Awareness Month and encourage a year-round awareness of bullying prevention throughout Miami-Dade County Public Schools.