

Ms. Susie V. Castillo, Board Member

SUBJECT: METAL DETECTORS

COMMITTEE: PERSONNEL SERVICES AND STUDENT AND SCHOOL SUPPORT

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

It is imperative that school districts take concrete steps toward helping to improve security at school sites. To that end, this school district should consider adding metal detectors to all its facilities – starting with schools. This would allow for substantially improved control over individuals trying to access an educational facility with a weapon or intending to do harm to others, and supplement the district’s existing random metal detector search program. It would also facilitate the detection of unauthorized items on campus. Furthermore, counter to what some may argue about metal detectors having a negative psychological impact on students, there is often a benefit associated with the measure which is that it actually makes students and staff feel safer. } Revised

The use of metal detectors is being recommended as a preventative measure. Inasmuch as we want to help improve safety amongst our students, this is largely a measure to protect our students and staff from individuals who may try to access schools with weapons. It is an added safety measure – a first line of defense that could deter those intending to do harm from targeting our schools.

This is also not a new concept. School districts large and small across the country have implemented this measure to great success. The reasons prompting them to implement these policies have been diverse; in some cases as a result of student violence, in others as a result of external threats, but in the end, all have coincided in a deliberate attempt to improve school-site safety.

**ACTION PROPOSED BY
MS. SUSIE V. CASTILLO:**

That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, authorize the Superintendent to conduct a comprehensive review of existing security measures in place district-wide, examining the feasibility of incorporating the daily use of metal detectors in schools, and report back to the Board findings and recommendations by the March 2016 Board Meeting. } Revised

**Revised
H-7**