

Ms. Raquel Regalado, Board Member

SUBJECT: HOVERBOARDS

COMMITTEE: ACADEMICS, EVALUATION AND TECHNOLOGY

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

As of today, there have been several incidents involving the use of hoverboards in our District, some of which have resulted in violent altercations. Hoverboards are two-wheeled, skateboard-like machines that surged in popularity during last December's holiday season and that, unlike traditional skateboards, are powered by batteries that allow the vehicle to be self-balancing.

Since the machine's rise in popularity, multiple news reports have shown hoverboard batteries that have caught fire and exploded to the extent of destroying homes. In fact, since December, the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) has received reports of more than 60 hoverboards exploding, smoking or bursting into flames as a result of being powered by faulty lithium ion batteries. Lithium ion batteries, even when in good condition, have the potential to catch fire if there is a small fault or if damage is caused to the thin separators that keep the elements of the battery apart. Damage to the separators can lead to an internal short-circuit that can subsequently cause the battery to overheat and burst into flames. Additionally, a hoverboard and its rider can easily crash into surroundings and thus spark battery-caused fires that can result in death despite the rider wearing a safety helmet.

In a letter released February 20 addressed to hoverboard manufacturers, the CPSC stated that no hoverboards are safe to use and that should staff encounter such products at import they will seek detention and/or seizure and if encountered domestically they may seek a recall of these products. Furthermore, due to the concerns about fires and explosions linked to hoverboards, several retailers have stopped selling the product and many colleges have banned the use of such and similar devices including self-balancing scooters, battery-operated scooters and hands-free segways on campus.

Overall, as one of our District's top priorities is to ensure that our sites are safe to all students, parents, and M-DCPS staff, this item recommends to prohibit the use of hoverboards and similar machines in all our premises.

ACTION PROPOSED BY

MS. RAQUEL REGALADO: That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, through the Superintendent, determine best method to prohibit the use of hoverboards and similar machines in all Miami-Dade County Public Schools premises.