

Dr. Marta Pérez Wurtz, Board Member

**SUBJECT: STUDENT FUNDRAISING**

**COMMITTEE: ACADEMICS, EVALUATION, AND TECHNOLOGY**

**LINK TO STRATEGIC BLUEPRINT: INFORMED, ENGAGED AND EMPOWERED STAKEHOLDERS**

Students in Miami-Dade County Public Schools participate in numerous fundraising activities for the purpose of enhancing their educational experience, such as attending tournaments and conferences, and raising funds for charitable causes.

Many students sell candy as a quick way to raise funds. While the sales may be profitable, the message we send contradicts our mission to further the health and safety of our students. We do not serve candy to students as part of our meal program; we should not encourage its sale. Although our policies discourage fundraising during the school day, many students engage in the practice.

There are other alternatives our club sponsors should explore. These include fitness challenges, walk/run events, and other healthy options.

Language in Board Policy 5830 Student Fund-Raising should be amended to read, as indicated in the attached policy: ““Participants in school-approved fundraising activities are prohibited from standing in roadways and/or medians of roadways.”

} Revised

This item seeks to strengthen our policies by removing any mention of candy sales during school hours, and encouraging club sponsors to seek alternatives that can be just as profitable and do not compromise the health of our students.

**ACTION PROPOSED BY**

**DR. MARTA PÉREZ WURTZ:** That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, direct the Superintendent to initiate rulemaking procedures to amend School Board Policy 5830 – Student Fund-Raising, and any other applicable policies, by removing any mention of candy sales and encouraging club sponsors to seek alternative fund-raising options.

**REVISED<sup>2</sup>  
H-5**

## ATTACHEMENT ADDED

### The School Board of Miami-Dade County Bylaws & Policies

Unless a specific policy has been amended and the date the policy was revised is noted at the bottom of that policy, the Bylaws and Policies of the Miami-Dade County Public Schools were adopted on May 11, 2011 and were in effect beginning July 1, 2011.

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#### **5830 - STUDENT FUND-RAISING**

Student fund-raising by students is limited in order to prevent disruption and includes student solicitation and collection of money for any purpose including collection of money in exchange for tickets, papers, or any other goods or services. Student fund-raising in school, on school property, or at any school-sponsored event is permitted only when the profit is to be used for school purposes or for an activity connected with the schools.

School and student fund-raising activities serve two (2) general purposes, to:

- A. promote the education, general welfare, and morale of students; and
- B. finance the legitimate extra-curricular activities of the student body in order to augment, but not conflict with, the educational program provided by the School Board.

Fund-raising activities must be conducted during non-instructional class time, preferably before and after school. At the principal's discretion, the collection of money for pre-paid activities or pre-sale items only may be authorized at a specified time during the school day (i.e., homeroom), as long as this process does not disrupt classroom instruction.

The fund-raising activities in each school shall be limited to two (2) weeks per activity, except for the United Way campaign time period which may be determined by the Superintendent (see below). Promotional activities shall be reasonable and competition among schools, and among students in individual schools, shall not be unduly stimulated.

- A. It is the responsibility of the principal to follow the Manual of Internal Fund Accounting for Elementary and Secondary Schools in approving for school-sponsored fundraisers.
  - 1. All allowable fund-raising activities must be approved by the principal.
  - 2. Written authorization from the Region Superintendent is also required for fund-raising activities in the community.
  - 3. All applications for approval of fund-raising activities must specify the following:
    - a. the times and places in which the fund-raising activity will be conducted;
    - b. the specific costs of the fund-raising merchandise/activity; and
    - c. the specific purpose intended for the funds being raised.
- B. Additional prohibitions are:

1. The sale of magazines shall be permitted by students in grades 9, 10, 11, and 12 only. Solicitations shall be permitted in homes only if a student is accompanied by an adult. Soliciting in offices or businesses of any kind shall not be permitted.
2. Participants in school approved ~~candy sales, car washes, and similar~~ fund-raising activities are prohibited from standing in roadways and/or medians of roadways.

No student, school organization, or member of the school staff may solicit funds in the name of the school from the public for any purpose without prior approval of the school principal and the Region Superintendent or his/her designee. All approvals must be in writing using the approved District forms and must be retained at the school for audit purposes.

The Board authorizes United Way solicitation of elementary and secondary school students. The Superintendent may determine the period of time the student campaign will be conducted in District schools, concurrent with the United Way community-wide campaign.

At the discretion of the principal, schools may participate, in fund-raising activities of voluntary health agencies as follows:

- A. Participation of the school is to be limited to publicizing the activity through posters and making available materials for distribution at a central location, but must not involve the handling of money in any way unless formally approved by the Superintendent and transmitted to the Board. This participation is to be approved, in advance, by the Principal.
- B. The school name may not be used in connection with fund-raising activities.
- C. Staff members will not be responsible for organizing drives or handling funds.

Also, at the discretion of the principal, senior high school clubs may participate in fund-raising activities for charitable purposes, as follows:

- A. A senior high school club may fund-raise or donate to the national/State 501(C) (3) public charity supported by the club's national/State sponsoring organization provided that the fund-raising involved follows all District guidelines as stated in the Manual of Internal Fund Accounting for fund-raising.
- B. Such fund-raising may not be conducted concurrently with the United Way of Miami-Dade County student campaign in the District schools except when the 501(C) (3) public charity fund-raising drive supported by the club's national/State sponsoring organization occurs during the United Way student campaign.

Exceptions may be made on an individual basis, as determined by the specific merits of each activity. Requests for exceptions must be approved by the Superintendent and transmitted to the Board.

Fund-raising activities organized and conducted by the PTA/PTSA and other school-allied organizations are independently operated by those organizations. Nevertheless, such activities must be submitted to the respective school principal for approval, with those involving community solicitation also requiring written approval from the Region Superintendent. All approvals must be retained for audit purposes.

School sponsors for approved school organizations shall not accept any form of compensation from vendors that might influence their selection of a vendor that will provide a fund-raising activity or a product that will be sold as a fund-raiser. Sponsors for approved school organizations shall not accept any compensation from a vendor after a decision has been made regarding a fund-raising activity or a product

that will be sold as a fund-raiser. In addition, sponsors for approved school organizations who make the selection of a vendor that will provide a fund-raising activity or a product that will be sold as a fund-raiser shall not enter into a contractual arrangement that provides compensation to the sponsor in any form from that vendor.

The Superintendent shall distribute this policy and the implementing procedures to each student organization granted permission to solicit funds.

F.S. 1001.43