

Dr. Lawrence S. Feldman, Board Member

SUBJECT: COUNCIL OF GREAT CITY SCHOOLS CONFERENCE

COMMITTEE: INNOVATION, GOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS, AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

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

The Council of the Great City Schools (CGCS) is the only national organization exclusively representing the needs of urban public schools. Composed of 70 large city school districts, its mission is to promote the cause of urban schools and to advocate for inner-city students through legislation, research and media relations. The organization also provides a network for school districts sharing common problems to exchange information, and to collectively address new challenges as they emerge in order to deliver the best possible education for urban youth. National advocacy, service, and capacity building shape the bulk of activities carried out on behalf of the urban schools by the CGCS. Throughout the year and as one of the member districts, Miami-Dade County Public Schools (M-DCPS) is able to access services in the areas of legislation and advocacy, research, communications, operations, teaching and learning, and leadership management, among others offered by the council. Through this membership, M-DCPS is able to share concerns and solutions with education counterparts coast-to-coast, capitalize on our strength in numbers, and build our expertise.

This year, the CGCS Executive Committee meeting was held July 15-16 in Boston, Massachusetts. The agenda included consideration of the Annual Report, along with an overview of the Council's award programs, work to improve outcomes for urban males of color and student achievement, potential council partnerships, federal legislative actions and priorities, data analysis and research, efforts to improve colleges of education, improve academic opportunities for English Language Learners, and strategic succession planning for the Council.

Research findings, symposiums and best practices are shared through the CGCS's annual conferences, designed to engage school districts in meaningful and reflective ways. This year, the 60th Annual Fall Conference will be held from October 19-23 in Miami, Florida hosted by M-DCPS. The agenda will include sessions on a variety of topics aimed at helping urban districts use data to increase student achievement and operational efficiency, as well as, share best practices related to school finance, leadership, governance and management.

ACTION PROPOSED BY

DR. LAWRENCE S. FELDMAN: That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida accept the Council of Great City Schools Executive Committee meeting update.