

Ms. Perla Tabares Hantman, Board Member

Co-Sponsor: Ms. Mari Tere Rojas, Board Member } Added

SUBJECT: YOUTH PROGRAMMING

COMMITTEE: INNOVATION, GOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS, AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

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

The safety of the youth of our community is of the highest priority. Historically, this School Board has taken a strong position to ensure that while students are on our campuses they are in a safe and welcoming environment. Our Superintendent, supported by this Board, has worked diligently to engage in partnerships with the community to create envelopes of safety around our schools and to encourage out of school programming in parks and community centers throughout the county.

Over the course of the last year a number of municipalities, the County, and many community organizations have stepped forward to implement such programs in an effort to give children “safe spaces” and “engaging activities.” Examples include the aptly named “Envelope of Safety Program,” initiated by County Commissioner Xavier Suarez, which provided programming last summer to 120 children, free of charge, and which has been expanded to serve more than three times as many children during this school year; and the “Together for Children” project which has brought together so many agencies in an effort break the cycle of violence.

As we prepare to leave for another winter recess, it is imperative that, as a community, we remain vigilant in our efforts to keep children engaged and safe throughout the year. We should also be supporting the efforts of those working to provide summer programs for students and encouraging the Superintendent to continue to seek out collaborations with entities that can deliver high quality and engaging youth programming, at no charge to the children, during out of school times.

ACTION PROPOSED BY

PERLA TABARES HANTMAN: That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, encourage the Superintendent to seek out opportunities to collaborate with entities that can deliver, free of charge to the children, high quality and engaging youth programming during out of school times.