Office of School Board Members
Board Meeting of March 18, 2017

March 2, 2017

Dr. Martin Karp, Board Member

SUBJECT: **INTERACTIVE WHITEBOARD (IWB) TECHNOLOGY**

COMMITTEE: **ACADEMICS, EVALUATION AND TECHNOLOGY**

LINK TO STRATEGIC BLUEPRINT: **RELEVANT, RIGOROUS & INNOVATIVE ACADEMICS**

Teachers use interactive whiteboards (IWB), which have replaced the traditional chalkboard, to create and deliver engaging and interactive lessons. The touchscreen functionality of these boards maximizes interaction opportunities, allowing students and teachers to write on the boards and interact manually with text and images. Beyond that, the IWB allows teachers to pose questions, conduct quizzes or survey students as part of a lesson, and enables students to answer from their desks, using mobile devices such as laptops, tablets or cell phones. In addition, many newly acquired or district-generated instructional materials and resources include a technology component using such interactive technology.

Since June of 2014, the District has purchased and installed over 11,600 interactive whiteboards funded through the General Obligation Bond (GOB) in classrooms that had no interactive technology. Prior to the GOB project, the District had over 7,000 functioning boards already in schools. With the new IWBs added to classrooms districtwide, technology-enhanced lessons are becoming commonplace in daily instruction. As a result, the maintenance and repair of the older boards has become a greater concern.

Recently, the District has started to replace boards that are over ten years old, as funding allows. Many of these older boards, while still in working order, are nearing the end of their useful lives and have a much higher rate of repair than boards that are less than ten years old. Additionally, there are IWBs in classrooms that are in need of service or replacement and may have fallen out of warranty. Historically, the cost to repair the out-of-warranty systems (IWB and projector) has been left to the schools.

The identification and replacement of old or non-functioning boards can be a lengthy process, as it involves surveying school sites, inspecting the boards to determine issues, confirming warranty status, and scheduling deliveries and installations. To ensure that no teacher is without the use of an IWB for an extended length of time, the District is asked to explore and identify strategies for expediting the repair or replacement process of non-functioning, out of warranty interactive whiteboard systems and for any IWB under warranty, that for some reason stops functioning.

ACTION PROPOSED BY DR. MARTIN KARP: That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, requests that the Superintendent:

1. explore and identify strategies for expediting the repair or replacement process of non-functioning interactive whiteboard systems; and,

2. report back to the School Board on or before the July 2017 School Board meeting any recommendations, which may include guidelines of a cost analysis regarding repairs versus replacing interactive whiteboards, and a maximum amount of time teachers should be without the use of interactive boards in their classroom.