

Ms. Lubby Navarro, Board Member

SUBJECT: M-DCPS SCHOOL SITES DESIGNATED AS COUNTY SHELTERS

COMMITTEE: INNOVATION, GOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS & COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

LINK TO STRATEGIC BLUEPRINT: INFORMED, ENGAGED AND EMPOWERED STAKEHOLDERS

On June 30, 2009, the School Board and the Miami-Dade County ("County") entered into an agreement allowing the County to use public school facilities as designated hurricane shelters. The term of the agreement is for ten (10) years and is set to expire on November 30, 2019.

The agreement specifies that the School Board shall seek reimbursement from the Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) Public Assistance Program for expenditures for food and wages incurred by the School Board for hurricane shelter expenditures and that the County will reimburse the School Board for expenditures not covered by FEMA. The sole responsibility of the school district under this Agreement is to permit schools to serve as emergency shelters and to provide a limited staff at the schools identified as shelters. The responsibility for the operation of the shelters under the agreement and in accordance with state law is assigned to the County.

Prior to the execution of this agreement, the last time South Florida had experienced the impact of a major hurricane was with Hurricane Wilma, one of the most intense tropical cyclones on record making landfall in Florida on October 24, 2005. Since the execution of this agreement, South Florida's most recent experience with a major hurricane was Hurricane Irma, which at one point was the strongest Atlantic hurricane on record. Because of the anticipated severity of Hurricane Irma, the largest evacuation in Florida history was implemented.

Accordingly, in preparation for Hurricane Irma, the school district, upon the request of the County, opened forty-two (42) school shelters, including special needs and pet-friendly shelters, which housed approximately 30,000 evacuees. Throughout their stay, the evacuees were served breakfast, lunch and dinner.

Based on the effects that were encountered by our schools, which served an extremely critical role, and performed admirably as hurricane shelters, this may be an appropriate time to revisit the agreement with the County to ascertain whether any modifications to the agreement may be necessary to ensure that our schools, our personnel, and our community are properly protected under the Agreement.

Potential issues that may be addressed during such a review include, but are not limited to: shelter related supplies, ensuring sufficient supply of meals for the projected amount of time that the schools will serve as shelters; requiring that non-school district personnel that are going to operate the shelter be deployed to the schools sufficiently ahead of time so as not to impede the timely opening of the shelters; and to provide for additional security at the shelters, when deemed necessary by school district administration. This item is being presented for the Board's consideration to authorize the Superintendent, with the assistance of the School Board Attorney, to review the current agreement with the County and to recommend any necessary amendments to ensure that our schools, our personnel, and our community are properly protected under the existing agreement.

This item has been reviewed and approved by the School Board Attorney's office as to form and legal sufficiency.

**ACTION PROPOSED BY
LUBBY NAVARRO:**

That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, authorize the Superintendent, with the assistance of the School Board Attorney, to review the current contract with Miami-Dade County for the operation of school facilities as hurricane shelters and recommend any appropriate amendments, if any, to ensure that our schools, our personnel, and our community are properly protected under the existing agreement.