

Ms. Perla Tabares Hantman, Board Member

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SUBJECT: SUPPORT FOR REASONABLE IMMIGRATION RELIEF FOR UNDOCUMENTED STUDENTS WHO HAVE GROWN UP IN THE UNITED STATES

COMMITTEE: INNOVATION, GOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS & COMMUNITY ENGAEMENT

LINK TO STRATEGIC BLUEPRINT: INFORMED, ENGAGED AND EMPOWERED STAKEHOLDERS

Miami-Dade County is a community of immigrants. Our student body represents over 160 nations and speaks nearly 60 different languages. While U.S. immigration policy is not the purview of this Board, our school system and students are nonetheless impacted by decisions made in Washington D.C. on this important issue. This Board has long supported a reasonable solution to address those young people known as DREAMers, undocumented immigrants brought to the U.S. as children, in some cases as infants, who are at risk of deportation to countries they have never known.

This Board has supported the Superintendent in the past when he advocated for young Daniela Pelaez, a valedictorian from North Miami High, who had the opportunity to attend Ivy League universities, but instead faced deportation because she was brought to the U.S. as an undocumented child. We have supported efforts on behalf of other young people in the same situation and have in fact included language in our 2017 Federal Legislative Program urging Congress to provide legislative relief to students who grew up in the United States, have good moral character, and are enlisted in the military or pursuing a college education.

As the federal government transitions into a new administration, we must continue to urge our leaders to find a fair and reasonable way to address these children who are in our country without documentation, through no fault of their own. Therefore, this item seeks to authorize the Superintendent to raise this issue as a priority and to specifically engage in communication with the new administration on this critically important issue.

ACTION PROPOSED BY PERLA TABARES HANTMAN: That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida: authorize the Superintendent to engage in dialogue with the new federal administration in support of reasonable immigration relief for undocumented students who have grown up in the United States, have good moral character, and are enlisted in the military or pursuing a college education.