

Ms. Maria Teresa Rojas, Board Member

SUBJECT: DISTRICTWIDE SAFETY AND SECURITY COMMITTEE

COMMITTEE: INNOVATION, GOVERNMENT RELATIONS AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

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

Educators throughout the nation have come to a clear understanding that schools are among the safest places for our students to be, with more abuse and harassment happening away from school than at school. However, reports of school shootings and violent crimes near schools have dominated the local and national media during the past few years. Additionally, bullying, intimidation, harassment, and the misuse of social media, among others, have served as the foundation of more horrific events that have occurred. Educators now consider these to be predictors of more severe crimes in schools and elsewhere. Furthermore, recent domestic and international terrorist attacks on innocent civilians have also prompted the educational community to start a dialogue as to how to make students, teachers, school-site administrators, and staff aware of different strategies for managing emergency situations related to terrorism.

Miami-Dade County Public Schools (M-DCPS) Policies 8400 – *Health and Safety Issues* and 8405 – *School Safety*, provide the vision for maintaining a safe, healthy, and drug/crime-free educational environment in our schools. To build on the already established policies and to further continue the discussions on safety and security throughout this school district, a recommendation is being proffered to formalize a districtwide safety and security committee.

The M-DCPS Districtwide Safety and Security Committee may have representation from the Miami-Dade Association of Chiefs of Police, the PTA/PTSA, school site administrative ranks (principals and assistant principals), representatives from each of the labor unions, representatives appointed by each School Board member, and any others as deemed appropriate by the Superintendent of Schools.

The M-DCPS Chief of Police or designee should serve as co-chairperson of the committee. The committee should meet at least four or six times a year, set the by-laws, and report to the School Board annually its findings and recommendations.

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

ACTION PROPOSED BY

MS. MARIA TERESA ROJAS: That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, authorize the Superintendent to provide a status report with recommendations to formalize a Districtwide Safety and Security Committee by the April 5, 2017, School Board meeting.