

Office of Superintendent of Schools
Board Meeting of May 24, 2017

May 8, 2017

Office of School Facilities
Jaime G.Torrens, Chief Facilities Officer

SUBJECT: PROVIDE RELIEF EFFORTS FOR THE REPUBLIC OF SURINAME AND DONATE SURPLUS MATERIALS, AS MAY BE AVAILABLE; COORDINATE TRANSPORT OF DONATED MATERIALS WITH OTHER WILLING AGENCIES

COMMITTEE: INNOVATION, GOVERNMENT RELATIONS & COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

LINK TO STRATEGIC BLUEPRINT: INFORMED, ENGAGED & EMPOWERED STAKEHOLDERS

Background

Suriname is a small country on the northeast coast of South America with a population of 540,000 residents. It is defined by vast swaths of tropical rainforest, Dutch colonial architecture and a melting-pot culture.

On February 16, 2017, the eastern region near the Marowijne River experienced a major flood that ravaged about 50 villages and more than 10,000 residents were rendered homeless. Many more are without power, food, shelter and basic necessities. Schools have been closed and parts of some villages were cut-off by flooding after persistent rains.

As a result of the flood, on April 4, 2017, The Honorable Marsha Renfrum Consulate General of the Republic of Suriname, made a request to the Miami-Dade County Public Schools for assistance in the form of donations of school furniture and other school materials at the elementary, middle and high school levels.

If approved by the Board, District staff will work with representatives from the Consulate's office as well as public and private partners to identify surplus furniture and supplies for schools in the Republic of Suriname. Any donations of District property shall be made in accordance with applicable Florida Statutes and Board policy.

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RECOMMENDED:

That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida authorize the Superintendent to:

- 1) provide relief efforts for the Republic of Suriname and donate surplus materials, as may be available; and
- 2) coordinate transport of donated items with other willing agencies.