

Alberto M. Carvalho, Superintendent of Schools

SUBJECT: PROVIDE RELIEF TO THE MUNICIPALITY OF IGUALA IN THE COUNTRY OF HONDURAS AND TO OTHER COMMUNITIES IN THE CARIBBEAN BASIN IMPACTED BY RECENT NATURAL AND ECONOMIC DISASTERS

Revised

COMMITTEE: INNOVATION, GOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

LINK TO STRATEGIC

BLUEPRINT: INFORMED, ENGAGED & EMPOWERED STAKEHOLDERS

For decades, the nation of Honduras has been plagued by the myriad of social issues associated with political instability and poverty. This has also been the case in a number of other nations in the Caribbean Basin, including Haiti. Further, as a result of a number of natural disasters, citizens residing across the Caribbean have found themselves in difficult living conditions; in some cases, even government infrastructure has been crippled. As a result, children and young adults residing in these areas frequently experience additional challenges in accessing education that would empower them in their pursuit of a better quality of life.

Revised

Many philanthropic, humanitarian, and service organizations are reaching out to facilitate donations and support for these areas. One such example is The Minority Chamber of Commerce (MCC), a non-profit organization that has launched a campaign to provide relief efforts to rural areas of Honduras. Through this program, Mayor Marcio Miranda, Mayor of the municipality of Iguala, has requested the assistance of Miami-Dade County Public Schools via MCC for the donation of a surplus school bus to transport children to and from school. Staff has identified a previously decommissioned school bus that meets the needs of the community of Iguala, and MCC has indicated it will fully sponsor the transport of the bus to Honduras.

Revised

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Additionally, other agencies and governmental entities have reached out indicating there are similar needs in nations across the Caribbean impacted by natural disasters which the District may be able to meet through the donation of surplus buses, desks, chairs, and the like. Therefore, as has been the practice of this Board, M-DCPS will take steps to meet these needs as practicable. To expedite this process, this item seeks to authorize such donations, with notification provided to the Board when such actions occur. As is District practice, any donations of M-DCPS property shall be made in accordance with applicable Florida Statutes and Board policy. In furtherance of the District's educational mission, this item is presented for the Board's consideration to support countries whose children frequently enroll in our school system.

Revised

Revised

RECOMMENDED:

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

- 1) provide a school bus identified as surplus inventory, as may be available, to the municipality of Iguala, Lempira, Honduras;
- 2) provide additional items, such as surplus buses and furniture, to other countries in the Caribbean Basin, as the need arises, with notification to be provided to the Board when such action occurs; and
- 3) coordinate transport of the donated items with identified willing agencies at no cost to the District.

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