

Ms. Maria Teresa Rojas, Board Member

SUBJECT: AUTHORIZE THE SUPERINTENDENT TO REVIEW CURRENT SAFETY AND SECURITY EMERGENCY OPERATING PROCEDURES, THE LATEST TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES AVAILABLE, AND APPLICABLE SCHOOL BOARD POLICIES TO ENSURE THE SCHOOL DISTRICT'S PREPAREDNESS TO UNDERTAKE APPROPRIATE ACTION WITH ALL CRITICAL INCIDENTS IN MIAMI-DADE COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS (M-DCPS)

COMMITTEE: PERSONNEL, STUDENT, SCHOOL, & COMMUNITY SUPPORT

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

Miami-Dade County Public Schools is at the forefront of implementing safety and security measures which positively impact students and employees. Every year, School Operations updates the *School Operations Management Guide* which serves as a resource for guidance and support to schools in the day-to-day operational functions. Included in this guide are a number of policies and procedures related to the safety and security of all. Procedures are clearly delineated to ensure that in the event of a fire or a lockdown, everyone knows what to do. Fire drills are conducted in schools monthly and two lockdown drills are required to be performed each school year, one in October and one in February.

Furthermore, the Miami-Dade School Police Department (MDSPD) is always available to support schools in the event of an emergency or a crisis. Officers are well trained in the Advanced Law Enforcement Rapid Response Training (ALERRT) which focuses on active shooter threats as well as terrorist attacks. The ALERRT curriculum has become the national standard in active shooter response training. Furthermore, MDSPD recently provided professional development to all school site administrators in Civilian Response to Active Shooter Events (CRASE) and the one-hour program is being offered to employees of the School Board Administration Building (SBAB), the SBAB Annex, and WLRN during the month of February, 2018.

At the School Board meeting of October 11, 2017, Dr. Lawrence S. Feldman, Board Member, proffered Agenda Item H-1, Emergency Management Policy, co-sponsored by the entire Board. This item authorized the Superintendent to initiate rulemaking proceedings to require that all manuals and procedures concerning preparation and administration of District resources and services related to emergencies and severe weather events be specifically identified in Board policy, updated on an annual basis, and transmitted to the School Board, appropriate District personnel and relevant agencies and partners prior to June 1 of each year.

Throughout the years, Miami-Dade County Public Schools and the School Board have shown not only a willingness and commitment, but also a pledge to ensure that appropriate safety and security policies and procedures, pursuant to Florida State statutes and best practices, are in place and that these are communicated to schools, district personnel, parents, and all stakeholders on a regular basis. Nevertheless, recent incidents in school shootings in the nation have prompted school districts to take another look at current policies and procedures being implemented to determine if different types of safety and security measures and procedures may have to be effected. Moreover, between 2014 and 2015, according to the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), the United States has experienced nearly six times as many active shooter incidents as during the period between 2000 and 2001. Eleven school shootings have taken place during the first 23 days of 2018.

This agenda item requests authorization for the Superintendent to review current emergency safety and security operating procedures, the latest training opportunities available, and applicable School Board policies to ensure the school district's preparedness to undertake appropriate action with all critical incidents in Miami-Dade County Public School.

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 review current safety and security emergency operating procedures, the latest training opportunities available, and applicable School Board policies to ensure the school district's preparedness to undertake appropriate action with all critical incidents in Miami-Dade County Public Schools, and report back to the Board by May 16, 2018.