

Ms. Maria Teresa Rojas, Board Member

SUBJECT: AUTHORIZE THE SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS TO DEVELOP OR UPDATE THE DISTRICT'S COMPREHENSIVE SAFETY AND SECURITY PLAN INCLUDING ALL NEW INITIATIVES AND STRATEGIES BEING IMPLEMENTED 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 (M-DCPS) takes proactive measures to protect the safety and security of all of our students and staff members. The Board and the Superintendent recognize the essential need to provide students and staff with a safe, secure, supportive, and disciplined learning environment. In keeping with this responsibility, a comprehensive, updated, and unified Miami-Dade County Public Schools safety and security plan, including all new initiatives and strategies recently implemented, must be developed or updated. It must be pointed out that some of this information may be protected from public disclosure under Florida Statute (F.S.) 281.301, and therefore, exempt from public requests under F. S. 119.071 (2) (d).

The District has taken the initiative to continue to revise, develop, and implement safety and security plans, procedures, and mechanisms in consultation with law enforcement, health, social service, emergency management agencies, and other community members. M-DCPS has disseminated applicable sections of the school safety plan to school employees and has developed and provided training opportunities to employees, as applicable, to enable them to recognize and appropriately respond to safety and security concerns.

Recent school incidents throughout the nation have required a full assessment of existing safety and security measures, with the main goal of identifying promising opportunities for improvement in M-DCPS. The Board and the Superintendent have approved and implemented a number of actions which hopefully will enhance and strengthen school security. Some of these, among others, are:

- ✓ Implementation of Florida's Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School Public Safety Act.

- ✓ Additional school officers in partnership with local law enforcement agencies.
- ✓ Implementation of a Districtwide Safety and Security Committee.
- ✓ Enhanced allocations of mental health/social work professionals to focus on prevention and early detection of student needs.
- ✓ Surveillance and internet protocol monitoring systems.
- ✓ Review of the safety and security of schools based upon infrastructure policies and procedures.
- ✓ Different mechanisms to automatically lock doors
- ✓ Digital floor mapping systems for immediate response.
- ✓ Enhanced mass communication protocols to provide expanded access to public access systems.
- ✓ Mandatory school-issued ID use.
- ✓ Evaluation and reduction of points of entries on school campuses.
- ✓ Strengthening of the District Cyber Incident Response Plan.

Some emergencies just cannot be prevented. Nonetheless, Miami-Dade County Public Schools continues to ensure that M-DCPS does everything it can to make our schools safe and secure environments. At the same time, the District will continue to partner with local officials and police departments throughout the County to strengthen these relationships for the benefit of all citizens.

Authorization of the Board is requested to authorize the Superintendent of Schools to develop or update the District's Comprehensive Safety and Security Plan including all new initiatives and strategies being implemented in Miami-Dade County Public Schools, and report back to the Board by March 15, 2018.

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 of Schools to develop or update the District's Comprehensive Safety and Security Plan including all new initiatives and strategies being implemented in Miami-Dade County Public Schools, pursuant to the requirements of Florida Statutes 281.301 and 119.071 (2) (d), and report back to the Board by March 15, 2019.