

Dr. Dorothy Bendross-Mindingall, Board Member

SUBJECT: ADDRESSING PUBLIC SAFETY MEASURES AT SCHOOL SPONSORED EVENTS

COMMITTEE: PERSONNEL, STUDENT, SCHOOL, & COMMUNITY SUPPORT

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

Echoing the need for an emergency response to serious incidents at mass gatherings are the number of violent incidents at school athletic events around the nation. These incidents have included assaults, riots/fighting, stabbings, shootings, and even murder. While forecasting every emergency scenario is not realistic, it is prudent however to have a crisis and crowd management plan to be deployed should a threat be introduced. It is the intent of this policy to direct the Superintendent, School Police Chief, and other relevant departments to create an all hazard and risk assessment of threats and occurrences at our stadiums and create an action plan to address how crowds will receive direction to reduce harm.

Now more than ever it is also imperative that we, as a school district, develop a plan to address the ever-present threat of disasters, both manmade and those produced by natural causes, while students, faculty, staff, and the general public are attending school sponsored events. There have been a number of laws passed and resources appropriated to the hardening of schools and providing police officers that have been deployed to ensure safety at our school sites. However, these threats to school sponsored events are ever present. This item seeks to bring attention to and address these threats by employing the most current best practices in crowd management and emergency response.

For example, our current practice with respect stadiums and sports venues, allows for backpacks, duffel bags or large bags, camera and binocular cases, diaper bags, horns or artificial noisemakers and umbrellas to be carried into our stadiums. In an effort to further increase the safety and security at these events and to promote uniformity in what may be brought into the stadiums, guidelines should be implemented to only permit clear plastic bags, limited in size, into our stadiums. A similar policy has been adopted by the National Football League and major college sports conferences such as the ACC, SEC, BIG 12, among others. It is the intent of this item to recommend the adoption of policies utilized on a national level and tailor them for our purpose. Exceptions should be made for medically necessary items and other accommodations, as required by local, state, and federal laws.

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

**ACTION PROPOSED BY DR. DOROTHY
BENDROSS-MINDINGALL:**

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

1. Review and guidelines as may be necessary to set forth what personal items spectators can be brought into school sporting events held at stadiums and other venues and update them to include clear plastic bags, limited in size;
2. Review, update, and maintain, on an ongoing basis, current practices regarding crowd management to include the most recent best practices, tailored to fit the needs of this school district at district sponsored sporting events, in response to disasters caused by man or nature; and
3. Provide an update and presentation to the School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, by the February 2019 School Board Meeting and on an annual basis thereafter of any revisions and of any proposed implementations for the 2019-2020 school year.