

Ms. Maria Teresa Rojas, Board Member

**SUBJECT: DIVERSITY EQUITY AND EXCELLENCE ADVISORY
COMMITTEE (DEEAC) RESPONSIBILITIES**

COMMITTEE: PERSONNEL, STUDENT, SCHOOL & COMMUNITY SUPPORT

LINK TO STRATEGIC

BLUEPRINT: INFORMED, ENGAGED AND EMPOWERED STAKEHOLDERS

Litigation seeking the desegregation of Miami-Dade County Public Schools (M-DCPS) was first filed in 1956, and on March 17, 1960 the Court entered an order in the case, Gibson v. Dade County School Board, that provided for implementation of a freedom of choice plan and retained jurisdiction over the case. On July 1, 1969, the Department of Health, Education and Welfare (HEW) informed the Board that it was not in substantial compliance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act. At this time, the Board utilized the services of the Florida School Desegregation Center of the University of Miami, a federally funded center, and continued its services until June 2002. On March 31, 1970, M-DCPS filed with the Court its Final Desegregation Plan, which had been adopted by the Board on March 25, 1970. A Plan for the Desegregation of the Dade County Schools 1970-71, addressed student assignment, faculty and staff assignment, transportation, extra-curricular activities, school construction, and site acquisition.

For over 30 years, M-DCPS timely filed every one of the semi-annual reports required by the Court. A great deal of progress was made and pursuant to the United States District Court order, issued by Judge William Dimitroules on June 21, 2001, and modified on August 16, 2001, it was established that federal court supervision of the School Board of Miami-Dade County should end, as the District had maintained a unitary system under governing legal precedents. The Court relinquished and ended its supervision over the District, effective June 30, 2002, and the District's obligation to submit periodic reports to the Court terminated on this date.

Throughout the years, The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, has demonstrated its good faith commitment to the constitutional rights of all of its students. It has continuously provided students access to quality programs and enhanced the delivery of student services. M-DCPS has met its obligation and has maintained a unitary school system and continues to safeguard that advanced honors and advanced placement courses, gifted programs, Exceptional Education Programs, disciplinary strategies and practices, strategies for retention in a grade, strategies for Limited

English Proficient/English Language Learners, vocational educational programs, and faculty and student assignments, are successfully executed and enhanced in the District meeting the intent of the final Court order. Furthermore, just recently, School Board Member Dr. Steve Gallon III, proffered Agenda Item H-6 at the School Board Meeting of June 21, 2017, approved by the Board, which included a number of recommendations related to the review of the DEEAC compliance reporting, pursuant to School Board Policy 9142.

Following the declaration of Miami-Dade County Public Schools as a unitary District, the Diversity Equity and Excellence Advisory committee was established. Responsibilities, membership, and meetings are sections delineated in School Board Policy 9142 – *Diversity Equity and Excellence Advisory Committee*.

One important responsibility outlined in School Board Policy 9142, under Section B, states that “DEEAC reviews and recommendations shall be reported on an annual basis to the Board by November 30th of each school year. This annual report shall assess the implementation of Board policies to ensure that the District maintains its commitment to provide a high-quality education to all students—a commitment that was made to the Court and the community upon receiving unitary status.”

This agenda item directs the Superintendent of Schools and the School Board Attorney to work with the Diversity Equity and Excellence Advisory Committee (DEEAC) to prepare a comprehensive updated report by November 30, 2020, pursuant to School Board Policy 9142, assessing the implementation of Board policies to ensure that the District maintains its commitment to provide high-quality education to all students—a commitment made to the Court and the Miami-Dade community upon receiving unitary status June 30, 2002. Included in this report should be a review and potential recommendations of the DEEAC responsibility areas identified in Board Policy 9142.

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, direct the Superintendent of Schools and the School Board Attorney to work with the Diversity Equity and Excellence Advisory Committee (DEEAC) to prepare a comprehensive updated report by November 30, 2020, pursuant to School Board Policy 9142, assessing the implementation of Board policies to ensure that the District maintains its commitment to provide high-quality education to all students—a commitment made to the Court and the Miami-Dade community upon receiving unitary status June 30, 2002. Included in this report should be a review and potential recommendations of the DEEAC responsibility areas identified in Board Policy 9142.