

Ms. Perla Tabares Hantman, Chair

**SUBJECT: STANDARDS OF ETHICAL CONDUCT**

**COMMITTEE: FISCAL ACCOUNTABILITY & GOVERNMENT RELATIONS**

**LINK TO STRATEGIC**

**BLUEPRINT: EFFECTIVE AND SUSTAINABLE BUSINESS PRACTICES**

As elected officials, all the members on this School Board wholeheartedly concur with our State Constitution that *a public office is a public trust*. For that reason, issues of public trust should always be a priority for the Board. Recently, there have been legislative and administrative developments that concern ethics and integrity in office. For instance, legislation was enacted directing the Florida Commission on Ethics to develop rules that were recently released and will take effect in December, 2020.

In the past, and in the spirit of keeping integrity as the bedrock of the Board's conduct, the Board has adopted policies describing standards of ethical conduct for school administrators and teachers in Policies 1210 and 3210. These standards are modeled generally on the *Principles of Professional Conduct for the Education Profession in Florida* contained in state rule 6A-10.081, F.A.C. The Board has also adopted general ethics bylaws that apply to Board members, including the Code of Ethics for Public Officers required by Chapter 112, Part III, that govern conflicts of interest and conflicting employment and contractual employment relationships.

In the same ethical spirit, the Board would greatly benefit from having policies that better address ethical issues essential to the Board. For instance, a revision to Board policies could better outline standards of conduct for the Board. Similarly, a revision to Board policies could better delineate the ethical conduct for the senior administrative positions who directly report to the Board. Section 1001.42(6), F.S., provides that school boards may adopt standards of ethical conduct, distinguishable from the provisions in the Code of Ethics, to govern the Board's behavior toward students, staff, the community, and the Board as a whole.

This item requests that the Board authorize the Superintendent to revise and amend applicable Board bylaws and policies in accordance with recent legislative and administrative developments as set forth in this item. These standards can be modeled on the *Principles of Professional Conduct for the Education Profession in Florida* contained in state rule 6A-10.081, F.A.C, and adjusted to be made applicable to the Board and individuals or entities who directly report to the Board, or standards can be developed after review of other standards of ethical conduct based on best practices or other school boards.

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

**ACTION PROPOSED BY CHAIR  
MS. PERLA TABARES HANTMAN:**

That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, authorize the Superintendent to initiate rulemaking proceedings to revise, amend, or develop applicable bylaws and policies to include specific standards of ethical conduct for the Board, and individuals or entities who directly report to the Board.