

Dr. Lubby Navarro, Board Member

**SUBJECT: PUBLIC SPEAKERS' WRITTEN COMMENTS AT SCHOOL BOARD MEETINGS**

**COMMITTEE: FACILITIES & CONSTRUCTION**

**LINK TO STRATEGIC BLUEPRINT: EFFECTIVE AND SUSTAINABLE BUSINESS PRACTICES**

On March 20, 2020, Governor Ron DeSantis issued Executive Order 20-69, allowing local government entities the ability to conduct their public meetings by communications media technology and without the need of a physically present quorum. The Executive Order permitted our Board to conduct its last four regular meetings virtually. Since our first virtual meeting on March 30, 2020, our Board has also been able to provide the public—through communications media technology—a means to access our meetings, while ensuring the health, safety, and welfare of the public, our employees, and The Board.

Our virtual meetings have also provided members of the public an opportunity to participate in these meetings by submitting written comments in response to Board Agenda items. These comments are read during the Board meeting by the Board Clerk and made a part of the record of the meeting.

Unfortunately, at the Board's June 17, 2020 regular Board meeting, the number of comments submitted by the public overwhelmed this process as approximately over 200 written public comments were submitted after the deadline for submission had expired. As a result, due to time constraints, the Board agreed to include these comments as part of the record of the meeting, but not to have them read by the Board Clerk.

This item is being presented for the Board's consideration to request that the Superintendent, with the assistance of the School Board Attorney, review our Board policy with respect to the process for receipt of written public comments by the Board during virtual meetings and recommend amendment or revision of Board policy, if necessary, to ensure that all written public comments are received and incorporated into the record of the meeting in a uniform manner.

This Item has been reviewed and approved by the School Board Attorneys' Office as to form and legal sufficiency

**ACTION PROPOSED BY  
DR. LUBBY NAVARRO:**

That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, authorize the Superintendent, with the assistance of the School Board Attorney, review School Board Policy 0165e, *Public Meetings During Declared COVID-19 Emergency*, and any other relevant policies with regard to the process for receipt of written public comments by the Board during virtual meetings and recommend amendment or revision of Board policies, if necessary, to ensure that all written public comments are received and incorporated into the record of the meeting in a uniform manner.