

Dr. Dorothy Bendross-Mindingall, Board Member

**SUBJECT: ROW HARD OR ROW HOME AT MIAMI-DADE COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS (M-DCPS)**

**COMMITTEE: ACADEMICS, INNOVATIONS, EVALUATION & TECHNOLOGY**

**LINK TO STRATEGIC BLUEPRINT: RELEVANT, RIGOROUS AND INOVATIVE ACADEMICS**

Founded in 1839, the first rowing club in the U.S. was Michigan's Detroit Boat Club. Rowing is a sport with rich culture and a dedicated following. It has its own distinct language, with unique and romantic colloquialisms to describe the form, function and process of rowing. Rowing is a core sport of the modern Olympics and currently comprises one of the largest U.S. delegations to the Olympic Games. Rowing is physically demanding, too, and rowers are widely considered among the most physically fit athletes in competitive sport. For a non-weight bearing activity, rowing still exercises all the main muscle groups, promotes cardiovascular health, and improves endurance.

Rowing clubs usually fall into two categories, indoor or outdoor rowing. Indoor rowing involves using rowing equipment rather than water boats. Rowing clubs and teams can be casual participants spending time outdoors while getting some exercise, or professional athletes participating in US Rowing national team qualifying events.

There is no prescribed age when one should start rowing, but a majority of rowers start during their teenage years. Most rowing clubs allow individuals as young as nine years old to join, although most individuals interested in rowing are at least thirteen years of age and older.

Rowing is an expensive sport. In order to seriously compete, a strong durable boat is needed which could cost several thousand dollars. Consideration must also be given to maintenance costs, oars, safety launches, coxing equipment, and a facility to store this equipment.

Additionally, safety gear should always be considered and provided. Life vest aren't required but they should be considered to ensure the health, safety, and welfare of all participants.

A rowing team could provide opportunities for Miami-Dade students to participate on a fair and equitable basis in interscholastic athletic programs that produce vital educational benefits including college scholarships. This item seeks approval to direct the Superintendent to review the feasibility of establishing the sport of rowing in Miami-Dade Public Schools, including competition participation, financial considerations, as well as seek partnerships with other school districts or corporations that might be interested in promoting or sponsoring a safe and beneficial rowing program.

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

**ACTION PROPOSED BY**

**DR. DOROTHY BENDROS-MINDINGALL:**

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

1. Review the feasibility of establishing the sport of rowing in Miami-Dade Public Schools, including competition participation with other school districts, financial considerations, as well as seek partnerships with corporations that might be interested in promoting or sponsoring a safe and beneficial rowing program; and
2. provide a report to the Board at the November 10, 2020, Academics, Innovation, Evaluation, and Technology Committee Meeting.