

Ms. Maria Teresa Rojas, Board Member

**SUBJECT: ADDITIONAL SUPPORT TO MIAMI-DADE COUNTY PUBLIC
 SCHOOLS (M-DCPS) REGIONAL CENTERS**

COMMITTEE: FISCAL ACCOUNTABILITY & GOVERNMENT RELATIONS

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

Miami-Dade County, with more than 2,000 square miles, larger than the states of Rhode Island and Delaware has an estimated population of over 2,700,000. Miami-Dade County Public Schools (M-DCPS), the fourth largest school district in the nation, educates a diverse student population of approximately 347,000 students with over 33,000 full-time employees, 480 schools/centers (inclusive of charter schools), and over 73,000 students enrolled in our magnet programs.

M-DCPS is currently decentralized with three (3) Regional Centers, each headed by a Region Superintendent and Region Directors reporting to each Region Superintendent. The impact that Regional Centers have on students, parents, staff, the teaching and learning process, the health and safety of schools, and the communities they serve cannot be underestimated. The COVID-19 pandemic has certainly created additional challenges to the Regional Centers, greatly expanding their roles in supporting schools and the students and parents within the region community. At the same time, it is important to note that while this school district continues to accomplish outstanding student achievement gains and has certainly made an impact on the lives of students during this very difficult time, the human and business elements involved in the operation of Regional Centers and the additional tasks that have been burdened on them must now be urgently considered. For example:

- Schools report to a specific region. Regions will have to closely monitor and supervise those students who are not making adequate progress and may require intervention during the remaining months of this school year. The impact of the pandemic on student learning will require precise monitoring activities, supervision, support, and definitely time.
- Region personnel works closely with school principals as students or staff members may have to quarantine due to exposure to COVID-19 and monitor school's mitigation strategies.

- Regions, in collaboration with school principals, will continue to play a pivotal role in ensuring that all students are in attendance and are able to participate in school.
- As parents continue to have more and more questions about their children during the pandemic, region personnel must be readily accessible to provide answers and guidance to parents and principals.
- A Regional Center may cover over 260 square miles.
- Working parents may have to drive long distances to access region personnel.
- Traffic distress within the County presents a great concern for region staff driving around to assigned schools.
- Each Regional Center supports an average of 110 schools including specialized centers. Principals and assistant principals are supervised by region personnel.
- Feeder patterns assigned to each region may vary from nine to 13.
- Budget conferences are conducted three times a year. With the number of schools assigned per region, these conferences may take up to two weeks for each budget session.
- With all the different responsibilities assigned to a Region Director, it may be extremely challenging for him or her to be able to visit schools on a regular basis and provide adequate support and supervision to schools and principals.

Therefore, this agenda item seeks the Board's approval to direct the Superintendent of Schools to present a report at the Fiscal Accountability and Government Relations Committee Meeting, March 10, 2021, describing different options available to enhance and provide additional support to M-DCPS Regional Centers, including the contemplation of expanding the region concept and any financial or operational concerns to be considered, as cost-neutral as possible.

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 to present a report at the Fiscal Accountability and Government Relations Committee Meeting, March 10, 2021, describing different options available to enhance and provide additional support to M-DCPS Regional Centers, including the contemplation of expanding the region concept and any financial or operational concerns to be considered, as cost-neutral as possible.