

Dr. Marta Pérez, School Board Member

SUBJECT: REQUEST SCHOOL BOARD MEETINGS START EARLIER

COMMITTEE: FISCAL ACCOUNTABILITY & GOVERNMENT RELATIONS

LINK TO STRATEGIC BLUEPRINT: EFFECTIVE AND SUSTAINABLE BUSINESS PRACTICES

At its meeting of October 16, 2013, the Board approved amendments to Board Policy 0165, *Public Meetings*, to provide that on regular Board meeting days, meetings would begin at 11:00 a.m. to give sufficient time for Board members to present items seeking approval of a recognitions, resolutions, endorsements, or proclamations. This amendment also limited the number of presentations by each Board member to two (2) presentations per Board meeting. The policy states the Board may recess for lunch after presentations if the time permits and the regular Board meeting is to reconvene at 1:00 p.m.

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However, since the pandemic and schools pivoting to online learning on March 16, 2020, regular School Board meetings have started at 1:00 pm. Additionally, the February 12, 2020 School Board meeting was the last School Board meeting where Board members presented B items (recognitions, resolutions, endorsements, or proclamations) as provided in Policy 0165.

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This item is presented for the Board to consider starting Board meetings earlier, for instance during the 11:00am segment presently set aside for proclamations. Starting Board meetings earlier should at a minimum help to reduce the length of our meetings by two (2) hours. This is a good opportunity to begin our board meetings at 11am. as stated in board policy 0165, *Public Meetings*. In an effort to conduct meetings in a more effective and timely manner, this item proposes a three (3) month pilot that would start board meetings at 11am.

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In order to implement these changes, a three (3) month pilot program should be initiated while the Board would have the option to direct the Superintendent to initiate rulemaking proceedings to amend Board Policy 0165, *Public Meetings*, to include language that if there are no B items, when the School Board meetings start at 11 a.m., the Board will begin by addressing the regular agenda.

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In a further effort to promote Board meeting efficiency and as previously proposed by School Board member, Dr. Lubby Navarro, the Board should also consider establishing a time certain for the conclusion of every regular Board meeting. If the business of the Board is not completed by the time set for the end of the meeting, the Board would also be given the option to extend the meeting by a 2/3 vote of the Board. These measures promote Board efficiency and should serve to increase the public's confidence in the Board's proceedings.

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**REVISED
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**ACTION PROPOSED BY
DR. MARTA PÉREZ:**

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

1. during the declared state of emergency issued because of the COVID-19 pandemic, to waive that portion of Policy 0165 requiring time reserved at 11:00 a.m. on regular Board meeting days for Board members' presentation of recognitions, resolutions, endorsements, or proclamations;
2. beginning with the March 17, 2021 School Board meeting, that the Board commence with the regular Board meeting agenda at 11:00 a.m.;
3. establish a time certain for the conclusion of regular Board meetings; and
4. initiate rulemaking, if necessary, in accordance with the Administrative Procedure Act to amend relevant Board policies to effectuate these changes.

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