

Ms. Maria Teresa Rojas, Board Member

SUBJECT: ESTABLISHMENT OF A SCHOOL BOARD-LEVEL COMMITTEE TO ADVISE AND INFORM THE BOARD ON ALL MATTERS REGARDING TECHNOLOGY AND CYBERSECURITY

COMMITTEE: FISCAL ACCOUNTABILITY & GOVERNMENT RELATIONS

LINK TO STRATEGIC BLUEPRINT: EFFECTIVE AND SUSTAINABLE BUSINESS PRACTICES

At the School Board Meeting of March 17, 2021, the Board received the Internal Audit Report-*Audit of the District's Readiness and Capabilities in the Acquisition and Implementation of a Large-Scale Instructional Technology Platform*, Agenda Item E-88. The School Board Audit and Budget Advisory Committee reviewed this report at its March 9, 2021 meeting and recommended transmission to the School Board. This audit was conducted pursuant to a Good Cause School Board Agenda Item, H-14, Revised, approved by the Board at its meeting of September 9, 2020. The objective of the audit was to determine the District's readiness and capabilities in the acquisition and execution of a large-scale instructional technology platform.

This audit documented the significant rise in cybersecurity activities and associated technology issues both globally and locally, as well as a movement of heightened corporate governance for technology in both the private and public sector through the formation of a recommended Board-approved level technology advisory committee.

The audit report described the following: "Cyber security issues have dramatically risen as information technology and cyber security environment is in a constant state of flux and evolution. All the aforementioned has increased the Administration's required expertise and need for resources to address the myriad of additional risks that come with the rise in instructional and information technology, but it has especially added to the School Board's governance and oversight responsibilities and corresponding need to be kept abreast and well-informed."

Furthermore, the audit reports states that "In the realm of public education, a review of the nation's largest school districts reveals a significant number of school systems also have or are planning on implementing a technology advisory committee. Three of the nation's 20 largest school systems, including Broward County Public Schools, the School District of Palm Beach County, and Fairfax County Public Schools evidenced the

establishment of a committee to advise the board and senior management on information technology issues. Clark County School District (Las Vegas), the nation's 5th largest school district, is currently in the process of considering the establishment of a technology advisory committee or group. The School District of Palm Beach County, the nation's 10th largest district, provides a good example of a school board level authorized committee. It established its Technology School Board Advisory Committee in 2008, where its School Board Policy 1.096 states that The School Board recognizes that technology is a major component of its operations and its instruction of its students. This Committee serves in an advisory capacity to the Board and is composed of seven members appointed by the Board who have substantial technology leadership or technical expertise within a large enterprise."

Therefore, this agenda item seeks the School Board's authorization to initiate rulemaking proceedings in accordance with the Administrative Procedure Act to execute a Board policy for the establishment and implementation of a Technology Advisory Committee comprised of individuals from the community with extensive and high-level technology expertise and experience. The Board may wish to consider the membership of this School Board committee to include nine voting members and alternates appointed by each Board member, not employed by the District or having any direct or indirect business dealing with Miami-Dade County Public Schools; two non-voting members from the District appointed by the Superintendent of School who may serve as liaison and provide administrative and logistical support to the advisory committee; and a non-voting member from the School Board Attorney's office.

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 initiate rulemaking proceedings in accordance with the Administrative Procedure Act to execute a Board policy for the establishment and implementation of Miami-Dade County School Board's Technology Advisory Committee incorporating purpose, membership and qualifications, terms of service, meetings authority, duties and responsibilities, and any other areas as deemed appropriate by the Superintendent of Schools on behalf of the Board, and present this policy at the Board meeting of May 19, 2021 for first reading.