Office of School Board Members
Board Meeting of January 12, 2022

January 6, 2022

Dr. Dorothy Bendross-Mindingall, Board Member

Co-Sponsors: Ms. Perla Tabares Hantman, Chair
Dr. Steve Gallon III, Vice Chair
Ms. Lucia Baez-Geller
Ms. Maria Teresa Rojas
} ADDED

SUBJECT: **THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA, RECOGNIZE AND OBSERVE JANUARY AS HUMAN TRAFFICKING AWARENESS MONTH AT ALL MIAMI-DADE COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS (M-DCPS)**

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

LINK TO STRATEGIC PLAN: **RELEVANT, RIGOROUS, & INNOVATIVE ACADEMICS**

Human trafficking is another American horror story, its simply modern-day slavery. It involves exploiting a person through force, fraud, or coercion for the purpose of forced labor, commercial sex, or both. This $150 billion business does not seem to discriminate; victims of human trafficking include men, women, boys, girls, and transgender individuals. Some of victim's were lured by the promise of a better life while others were stripped away from the loved ones without any consent.

Florida is ranked third nationwide in human trafficking cases, and Miami-Dade County is basically the epicenter of Florida. Schools can play a huge role in keeping our kids safe and out of trafficker's way. Our schoolhouses should serve as a safe place for all our children, especially our students whose homes already lack safety or security. It takes a village to ensure the safety of our students. Everyone within our schools play a role starting with our bus drivers, food service staff, instructors, office employees, and ending with our administrators. We must understand the warning signs, learn the indicators of this crime and how to assist a student that is an apparent victim.

This item seeks to further commend local, state, and national efforts to increase awareness of human trafficking by recognizing January as Human Trafficking Awareness Month throughout Miami-Dade County Public Schools.

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

ACTION PROPOSED BY DR. BENDROSS-MINDINGALL: That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, recognize and observe January as Human Trafficking Awareness Month at all Miami-Dade County Public Schools.

Revised

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