

Dr. Lubby Navarro, Board Member

**SUBJECT: FEASIBILITY STUDY FOR CONVERTING JORGE MAS CANOSA
MIDDLE SCHOOL TO A 6-12 HIGH SCHOOL**

COMMITTEE: FACILITIES & CONSTRUCTION

LINK TO STRATEGIC

PLAN: RELEVANT, RIGOROUS, & INNOVATIVE ACADEMICS

For more than a decade, Miami-Dade County Public Schools (M-DCPS) has been at the national forefront of school choice by offering students and families access to over 1,000 unique programs aligned to a variety of themes, including international studies, visual and performing arts, technology, engineering, robotics, aviation, forensic sciences, and many others. Many of these programs leverage innovative school models, including schools that do not restrict students and parents to specific boundaries, virtual instruction, single-gender environments, and models embedded within business settings in the local community. The number and success of these unique programs have enabled M-DCPS to remain an attractive educational option for students and families across Miami-Dade County.

One model that has proven successful is the 6-12 school configuration, which offers students the option of exploring a specific area of interest beginning in the middle grades and seamlessly articulating into continued coursework in that program area throughout the high school grades, all within the same school. The District currently has six such 6-12 schools – Arthur and Polly Mays Conservatory of the Arts, iPrep Academy North, José Martí MAST 6-12 Academy, Miami Arts Studio 6-12 @ Zelda Glazer, Young Men’s Preparatory Academy, and Young Women’s Preparatory Academy – three of which were created through the conversion of existing middle school facilities. The robust programs the District has been able to provide students as a result of these conversions have allowed M-DCPS to remain competitive and strategic with its school choice options.

With the U.S. 2020 Census results indicating that some of the southwestern areas of Miami-Dade County are among those experiencing the greatest population growth, there exists a need to explore additional opportunities for M-DCPS to offer more innovative educational programming that meets the demands of students and families residing in this part of the community. One very in-demand school in the area is Jorge Mas Canosa Middle School, which, based on enrollment, is the largest middle school in the South Region and the second largest in the District overall. Leveraging the popularity of this school to create a new 6-12 program may allow the District to recapture enrollment lost to charter schools. Thematic options could include the expansion of the current Cambridge Advanced International Certificate of Education (AICE) program or other in-demand program offerings that would expand choice options in that area.

This agenda item seeks to direct the Superintendent of Schools to explore the feasibility of converting Jorge Mas Canosa Middle School to a 6-12 school model, in order to provide a new choice model for students and families in the southwestern area of Miami-Dade County.

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

**ACTION PROPOSED BY
DR. LUBBY NAVARRO:**

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

1. To conduct a feasibility study for converting Jorge Mas Canosa Middle School to a 6-12 high school;
2. identify other existing school facilities or land within the proximity of the area of Jorge Mas Canosa Middle School, for potential use of the 6-12 high school; and
3. report back to the Board no later than June 22, 2022.