

Dr. Steve Gallon III, Vice Chair

SUBJECT: TRAVEL APPROVAL AND AUTHORIZATION

COMMITTEE: FISCAL, ACCOUNTABILITY & GOVERNMENT RELATIONS

LINK TO STRATEGIC

PLAN: EFFECTIVE & SUSTAINABLE OPERATIONAL PRACTICES

The Miami-Dade County Public Schools is committed to full compliance with all School Board Policy and statutory requirements. Pursuant to state requirements, the School Board approves, usually annually, travel for School Board Members to conferences, meetings, and official events and related activities.

At the beginning of the 2021-2022 school year, the Board approved certain travel to conferences, meetings, and official events and related activities, including those involving the National School Board Association of which M-DCPS, by virtue and extension of the Florida School Boards Association (FSBA) was a member. The School Board Vice Chair was not only the School Board's representative for FSBA and NSBA, but was eventually elected as Chair of the Council of Urban Boards of Education (CUBE) and thereby held a seat on the NSBA's National Board of Directors.

Subsequent to this approval, and as a result of certain actions by NSBA, FSBA, along with at least 20 other states throughout the nation, withdrew its membership from NSBA. Consequently, the Consortium of State School Boards Associations (COSSBA) was established of which FSBA is a founding member, along with 20 other state associations.

COSSBA is a non-partisan, national alliance dedicated to sharing resources and information to support, promote and strengthen state school boards associations as they serve their local school districts and board members. COSSBA is a voluntary, non-partisan federation of state school boards associations focused on:

- Support for the work of state school boards associations through effective staff collaboration, networking, and shared resources
- Networking opportunities for local school board members and association board members to enhance the effectiveness of their work
- Tracking and advocating for federal education issues and policies impacting local school boards and public education aligned with a statement of core values and beliefs of COSSBA
- Federal judicial advocacy impacting local control and public education

As both a member of the FSBA Board, and former CUBE Chair, I have been selected to participate in meetings and activities involved in the continued formulation of COSSBA, and more specifically, its Urban School Board Alliance.

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This item seeks to request that the School Board authorize and approve Vice Chair Dr. Steve Gallon III to attend to conferences, meetings, and official events and related activities pertaining to COSSBA and the Urban School Board Alliance, and include same in the 2022-2023 list of approved travel, as required by state statute and School Board Policy.

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

**ACTION PROPOSED BY
DR. STEVE GALLON III:**

That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, authorize and approve Vice Chair Dr. Steve Gallon III to attend to conferences, meetings, and official events and related activities pertaining to COSSBA and the Urban School Board Alliance, and include same in the 2022-2023 list of approved travel, as required by state statute and School Board Policy.