

Ms. Maria Teresa Rojas, Board Member

SUBJECT: ENHANCED AND IMPROVED BUSINESS AND INDUSTRY COLLABORATIONS AND PARTNERSHIPS AS MIAMI-DADE COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS (M-DCPS) PREPARES A READY AND TRAINED WORKFORCE FOR THE 21ST CENTURY

COMMITTEE: ACADEMICS, INNOVATION, EVALUATION & TECHNOLOGY

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

Pillar I, Relevant, Rigorous, & Innovative Academics of the Miami-Dade County Public Schools (M-DCPS 2021-2026 Strategic Plan – *Infinite Possibilities*, defines three priorities under this pillar and 15 objectives. The introduction to Pillar one says: “As a school system, our core function is to provide students with the knowledge and skills they will need to excel in their future endeavors---whether it be through the pursuit of post-secondary education or a direct transition into the workforce. To achieve this, Miami-Dade County Public Schools strives to create relevant, rigorous, and innovative academic opportunities that align with students’ interests, are responsive to labor market demands, and prepare them to succeed in their chosen career path.” Priority one states, “Ensure that all students graduate with a relevant viable post-secondary plan.”

Throughout the years, Miami-Dade County Public Schools has supported programs and collaborations with multiple entities in the business and industry communities on an ongoing basis to identify additional opportunities to enhance programs for students wishing to enter the world of work after they graduate from high school. Many of these collaborations include services in aviation, banking, creative design, trade and logistics, hospitality, technology, and healthcare. M-DCPS has consistently engaged with the Greater Miami Chamber of Commerce and the Beacon Council, Miami-Dade County’s economic development organization. Furthermore, most recently, Board Members have proffered agenda action items including Agenda Item H-12 Career and Technical Education (CTE) Programs (June 22, 2022), sponsored by Board Member Dr. Marta Perez; Agenda Item H-16 Post-Secondary Success Commitment, (August 18, 2021) sponsored by Board Member Luisa Santos; and Agenda Item H-3 Creating a Workforce for the 21st Century (July 24, 2019) sponsored by Board Member Maria Teresa Rojas. Additionally, on January 30, 2019, Florida Governor Ron DeSantis signed Executive Order 19-31 with a number of actions to “begin the process of ensuring that Florida has the strongest CTE system in the country, aligned to market demand, and that Florida students are prepared to fill the high-demand, high-wage jobs of today and the future.”

Similarly, at the Board meeting of June 22, 2022, the Board approved Agenda Item D-23, Revised, the Superintendent's realignment, restructuring, and reorganization of selected district offices which included the establishment of the Office of School Leadership and Performance with an important "focus on post-secondary career and technical programs to provide enhanced resources that will serve as vital components for college and career readiness efforts to prepare students to graduate and enter high-wage, high-demand employment sectors."

The impact of technology in the workforce also raises some challenging questions about the broader influence of automation on jobs, skills, wages, and the nature of work itself. Investments in renewable energy, such as wind and solar, energy-efficiency technologies, and the adaptation and mitigation of climate change may create a new demand for workers in a range of occupations, including manufacturing, construction, and installation. These investments and possible partnerships will create different experiences and opportunities for students as they seek a new generation of jobs. Students and graduates must be readily prepared to assume these new job opportunities as they will join a very different, exciting, and well-paid job market.

As the Board continues to expand its support for career readiness programs in Miami-Dade County Public Schools, it is timely for this school district to enhance and improve all collaborations and partnerships with the business and industry communities as we prepare students to be ready and trained for very different job market opportunities in the 21st century. These collaborations and partnerships may include reaching out to the business and industry communities to identify the employment skills our graduates will need to have as they enter the world of work in the next five to ten years; securing available year-long internships, paid or unpaid; identifying and expanding professional development activities offered by business and industry to interested high school students ; enhancing opportunities to earn industry certification while in high school; and ultimately the probability of securing high-wage jobs after graduating from high school, among others.

This agenda 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 develop a plan of action with the business and industry communities to ensure that our students are able to participate and learn the employment skills graduates will need to have as they enter the world of work in the next five to ten years; secure available year-long internships, paid or unpaid; identify and expand accessible professional development activities offered by business and industry to interested high school students; provide or enhance the proper training and certifications in collaboration with business and industry to ensure that students are ready to be offered high-paying jobs after graduating from high school; and report back to the Board at the Academics, Innovation, Evaluation and Technology Committee on November 9, 2022.