

Ms. Maria Teresa Rojas, Board Member

SUBJECT: FEASIBILITY OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS (M-DCPS) EXPANDING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF *THE CONSEQUENCES AREN'T MINOR* PROGRAM

COMMITTEE: PERSONNEL, STUDENT, SCHOOL & COMMUNITY SUPPORT

LINK TO STRATEGIC PLAN: INFORMED, ENGAGED, & EMPOWERED STAKEHOLDERS

The Consequences Aren't Minor is a program/presentation designed by Miami-Dade Public Defender Carlos J. Martinez to educate students and parents about the life altering consequences of getting involved with the criminal and juvenile justice systems. Through an interactive presentation and discussion, Mr. Martinez teaches students and parents about current laws and how they relate to "childhood indiscretions". The presentation also contains a lively discussion about the far-reaching consequences of an arrest, plea, conviction, and adjudication.

The goals of *The Consequences Aren't Minor* program are to:

- Reduce delinquent and criminal behavior.
- Educate young people to keep them from engaging in delinquent behavior.
- Educate parents so they can prevent their children from engaging in delinquent behavior.
- Dispel myths about juvenile court being a slap on the wrist.
- Educate elected officials and legislators so they can fix the draconian and ineffective laws that make it easier for kids to get a job from a drug dealer than a car dealer.

At the School Board Meeting of September 5, 2018, the Board approved agenda item H-4, proffered by Board Member Mari Tere Rojas authorizing the Superintendent of Schools to explore the feasibility of Miami-Dade County Public Schools implementing *The Consequences Aren't Minor* program/presentation during the 2018-2019 school year, at no cost to the district. A follow-up memorandum was provided to the Board on October 9, 2018, which stated that "*The Consequences Aren't Minor* presentation is part of the annual summer programming organized by the Division of Educational Opportunity and Access. A total of 60 students have participated each summer." It further stated that "staff is working in conjunction with the Office of the Public Defender to explore the potential for delivery additional presentations, at no cost to the District, throughout the school year."

At the last Board-approved Districtwide Safety and Security Committee meeting held on September 26, 2022, a discussion was held regarding the number of middle school students who are encountering delinquent behaviors and the need for parents to have a comprehensive understanding of those actions and the life-long consequences their children may face.

Therefore, this agenda item seeks authorization for the Superintendent of Schools to explore the feasibility of expanding the implementation of M-DCPS *"The Consequences Aren't Minor"* program/presentation during the 2022-2023 school year, at no cost to the school district.

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, authorize the Superintendent of Schools to explore the feasibility of expanding the implementation of Miami-Dade County Public Schools (M-DCPS) *The Consequences Aren't Minor* program/presentation during the 2022-2023 school year, at no cost to the school district, and report back to the Board by November 18, 2022.