

Ms. Maria Teresa Rojas, Chair

SUBJECT: COMPREHENSIVE REVIEW OF TRANSPORTATION GUIDELINES, INCLUDING STUDENT DISCIPLINE ACTIONS, WHILE STUDENTS ARE RIDING A MIAMI-DADE COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS BUS

COMMITTEE: PERSONNEL, STUDENT, SCHOOL & COMMUNITY SUPPORT

LINK TO STRATEGIC PLAN: SAFE, HEALTHY, & SUPPORTIVE LEARNING ENVIRONMENTS

Miami-Dade County Public Schools (M-DCPS) is aware of several video clips circulating on social media platforms involving students engaged in prohibited and unsafe behavior while riding an M-DCPS school bus. The school district has taken immediate and appropriate disciplinary action has been initiated for those students involved, pursuant to the Code of Student Conduct. The Miami-Dade Schools Police has taken swift action and is continuously assisting in the investigation to ensure that the unfortunate events are accurate, securing any additional information available as to what led to these unruly actions, and determining what future recommendations for consideration by the School Board may be taken. It is important to ascertain that these unacceptable events are deterred while students ride M-DCPS buses. The safety and security of all students is of utmost importance to the School Board, the Superintendent of Schools, the administration, school site administrators, the transportation department, and all bus drivers and bus aides.

Therefore, this agenda item proposes to direct the Superintendent of Schools to conduct a comprehensive review of transportation guidelines, including student discipline actions, while students are riding a Miami-Dade County Public Schools bus. This comprehensive review should include, but is not limited to:

- Evaluation of current procedures, protocols, policies, professional development offerings for bus drivers, bus aides, and school site administrators, governing the safe transportation of students while they ride M-DCPS buses.
- Assessment of M-DCPS School Board Policies 5500 - *Student Conduct and Discipline*; 5517.01 *Bullying and Harassment*; 5610 *Suspension and Expulsion of Students*; and 8600 – *Transportation*, including any of the documents which are incorporated by reference in these policies.
- Update of M-DCPS *Transportation Handbook for School Staff*, July 2021;
- Assessment of current language in Florida Statutes 1006.21, *Duties of district school superintendent and district school board regarding transportation* and Florida Statute 1006.10 - *Authority of school bus drivers and district school boards relating to student discipline and student safety on school buses*;

- Evaluation of Florida State Board Rules 6A-3001, Basic Principles for Transportation of Students; 6A-30121 – Responsibility of School District and Parents or Guardians for Students who are Transported at Public Expense; and 6A-30171 – Responsibilities of School Districts for Student Transportation, and others to determine if the school district should recommend amendments to any of these statutes and State Board Rules;

The Superintendent may determine the need to review further actions to be included in this review for recommendations to the School Board.

This item does not appear on the published agenda. There exists good cause to vary from the published agenda as new and additional information has emerged on the issue addressed in the item after the publication of the February 15, 2023, Board Meeting agenda.

This item has been reviewed and approved by the General Counsel's Office as to form and legal sufficiency.

**ACTION PROPOSED BY CHAIR
MS. MARIA TERESA ROJAS:**

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

1. conduct a comprehensive review of transportation guidelines, including student discipline actions, while students are riding a Miami-Dade County Public Schools bus, including, but not limited to, the following:
 - a. Evaluation of current procedures, protocols, policies, professional development offerings for bus drivers, bus aides, and school site administrators, governing the safe transportation of students while they ride M-DCPS buses;
 - b. Assessment of M-DCPS School Board Policies 5500 - *Student Conduct and Discipline*; 5517.01 *Bullying and Harassment*; 5610 *Suspension and Expulsion of Students*; and 8600 – *Transportation*, including any of the documents which are incorporated by reference in these policies;
 - c. Update of M-DCPS *Transportation Handbook for School Staff*, July 2021;
 - d. Assessment of current language in Florida Statutes 1006.21, *Duties of*

district school superintendent and district school board regarding transportation and Florida Statute 1006.10 - Authority of school bus drivers and district school boards relating to student discipline and student safety on school buses;

- e. Evaluation of Florida State Board Rules 6A-3001, *Basic Principles for Transportation of Students*; 6A-30121 – *Responsibility of School District and Parents or Guardians for Students who are Transported at Public Expense*; and 6A-30171 – *Responsibilities of School Districts for Student Transportation*, and others to determine if the school district should recommend amendments to any of these statutes and State Board Rules; and
 - f. Determine if there is a need to review further actions to be included in this review for recommendations to the School Board.
2. Provide a report to the Board with recommendations for possible School Board actions by April 14, 2023.

