

Mr. Danny Espino, Vice Chair

**SUBJECT: REVIEW OF SAFETY AND SECURITY NOTIFICATIONS AND DATA**

**COMMITTEE: PERSONNEL, STUDENT, SCHOOL, & COMMUNITY SUPPORT**

**LINK TO STRATEGIC PLAN: SAFE, HEALTHY AND SUPPORTIVE LEARNING ENVIRONMENT**

The top priority of M-DCPS is the safety of all our stakeholders. To ensure the strongest safety protocols are in place, data collecting of calls made from our school sites and current notification procedures must be reviewed and improved upon. Safety and security data notification technology is one of the tools necessary in a comprehensive safety and security program. School security systems that include integrated security solutions with Short Message Service ("SMS") notification alerts to School Resource Officers ("SRO"s) and, as deemed necessary by the School Board, any other District personnel, can provide timely communications in emergencies. It will not only help to keep staff and students safe but will immediately alert police and key personnel.

Current Board Policy 8410 *Emergency management, preparedness, and response* requires that the Superintendent in conjunction with Emergency Management and School Safety Specialist, develop the District's Emergency Operations Plan (EOP), which includes an active assailant response plan and a mobile panic alert system, also known as "Alyssa's Alert." This alert system developed in consultation with the county 911 authority and local emergency management office to ensure that the system integrates with local public safety answering point (PSAP) infrastructure to transmit calls and mobile activations. The District's mobile panic alert system must include mobile devices placed throughout each school campus.

The 9-1-1 system has evolved significantly over the years and because of that Miami-Dade County has invested significantly in safety technology.

This investment can also be leveraged to expand services to Miami-Dade County Public Schools. In today's world, security, emergency response, and effective communication are essential for every organization, especially one serving students, teachers, and parents.

As such, one of the most pressing challenges faced by large urban school districts, such as ours, has been found to be the lag between the time it takes for county 9-1-1 to dispatch a call to the intended school SRO. In an emergency, where every second counts, any system that can enhance the speed of first responders being notified is critical in making the difference in successfully providing the school community with a much faster and direct response.

The solution to these challenges may be the deployment of a cloud-native emergency call notification system that provides those designated within our District immediate, real-time SMS notifications whenever anyone makes a 9-1-1 call on campus to pertinent school decision makers. The notification should include a message stating a 911 call has been placed, the school's geographic location, and time the call is made. This solution should be seamless, with no need for the download of any dedicated app for anyone's phone.

The purpose of this item is to request that the Superintendent provide a report to the School Board, by the May 17, 2023, regular School Board Meeting, on whether there is a mechanism in place to notify key District and school personnel via SMS in real-time, when a 9-1-1 call is made from a school campus. This item, also seeks that, if it is determined that there is no mechanism in place for such notification to school personnel, that the Superintendent be authorized to identify an outside entity that may assist the District evaluating whether adding this enhancement to the present 9-1-1 system response time can improve school safety, and if so, authorize the Superintendent to explore the feasibility of procuring such an enhancement to the District's current 9-1-1 system.

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

**ACTION PROPOSED BY  
MR. DANNY ESPINO:**

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

1. provide a report back to the School Board, by the May 17, 2023, regular School Board Meeting, on whether there is a mechanism in place to notify key District and school personnel, by SMS in real-time, when a 9-1-1 call is made from a school campus; and
2. if it is determined that there is no mechanism in place for such notification of school personnel, that the Superintendent be authorized to identify an outside entity that may assist the District in evaluating whether adding this enhancement to the present 9-1-1 system response time can improve school safety, and if so, further authorize the Superintendent to explore the feasibility of procuring such an enhancement to the District's current 9-1-1 system.