

Mr. Roberto J. Alonso, Board Member

**SUBJECT: PROPOSED ESTABLISHMENT OF A SCHOOL-BOARD LEVEL ADVISORY COMMITTEE TO ADVISE AND INFORM THE BOARD ON ALL MATTERS REGARDING THE SELECTION OF INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS, MEDIA CENTER, LIBRARY BOOKS, READING MATERIALS, AND SUPPLEMENTAL MATERIALS**

**COMMITTEE: ACADEMICS, INNOVATION, EVALUATION & TECHNOLOGY**

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

The Miami-Dade County School Board is responsible for the content of all instructional materials and any other materials used in a classroom, made available in a school library/Media Center, digital content, or included on a reading list whether adopted and purchased from the State-adopted instructional materials list, adopted and purchased through the District instructional materials program, or otherwise purchased or made available in the classroom (educational materials). This responsibility includes materials in classroom libraries.

Through the supervision and approval of the School Board, the selection and use of Educational Materials shall be in accordance with pertinent state law, including but not limited to:

- HB 241: Parents' Bill of Rights, codified in chapter 1014, F.S.
- CS/CS/HB 1557: Parental Rights in Education, codified in s. 1001.42, F.S.
- CS/HB 1467: K-12 Education, codified in s. 1001.35, F.S.; and s. 1006.28, F.S.
- s.847.001, F.S.: Obscenity Definitions
- s. 847.012, F.S.: Harmful materials; sale and distribution to minors
- s. 1006.40, F.S.: Use of instructional materials allocation; instructional materials, library books, and reference books; repair of books

In an effort to increase transparency of the District's process for the review of educational materials, selection, and usage, enhance parents' control of their children's education, and ensure alignment and compliance with pertinent state law, the School Board may benefit from the establishment and implementation of an Educational Materials Advisory Committee (EMAC) to facilitate these purposes.

The jurisdiction of the EMAC shall solely be advisory. Anything to the contrary notwithstanding, this advisory committee to the Board shall not interfere with the process or conflict with the actions and/or determinations of those committees and entities

required by state law and Board Policy 2510 (*Instructional Materials, School Library/Media Center, and Other Educational Materials*) to conduct reviews of educational materials. Rather this advisory committee to the Board would serve as a repository that would receive parental inquiries or complaints about educational materials, review these inquiries and annually, or on a more routine basis, make recommendations to the Board regarding these matters. . In no way, shall the EMAC's proceedings, or its reports or recommendations, impinge upon, interfere with, or any way serve to supplant, replace, or be a substitute for the process for review of complaints involving instructional materials specified under section 1006.28(2)(a)3, Florida Statutes or any review process mandated by state law or Board policies, including Policy 2510.

The committee shall continue to exist until such time that the School Board, by an affirmative motion, determines that it is appropriate and necessary to dissolve the committee.

Parent and community stakeholder engagement and participation shall be accomplished through the appointment by each School Board Member of one (1) parent and alternate of a MDCPS student to the EMAC.

District participation shall be accomplished through the appointment by the Superintendent of Schools, of (2) District teachers and (2) District Administration staff members of the Academics, Innovation, Evaluation & Technology Committee to the EMAC.

This item seeks to direct the Superintendent of Schools to explore the feasibility of creating an Educational Materials Advisory Committee to achieve the purposes as delineated in this item and to make recommendations as to its operations, inclusive of, but not limited to, staff support, number of meetings, issuance of reports to the Board, and any further recommendations as to its composition.

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

**ACTION PROPOSED BY  
MR. ROBERTO J. ALONSO:**

That the School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida authorize the Superintendent of School to explore the feasibility of creating an Educational Materials Advisory Committee to fulfill the purposes as delineated in this item and to make recommendations as to the proposed advisory committee's operations, inclusive of, but not limited to, staff support, number of meetings, issuance of reports to the Board, and any further recommendations as to its composition, and for the Superintendent to provide his recommendations by the May 10, 2023 regular Committee Meeting.