

Mr. Roberto J. Alonso, Board Member

Co-Sponsors: Ms. Lucia Baez-Geller
Dr. Dorothy Bendross-Mindingall
Ms. Monica Colucci
Dr. Steve Gallon III

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SUBJECT: OPENING INVOCATION AT SCHOOL BOARD MEETINGS

COMMITTEE: PERSONNEL, STUDENT, SCHOOL & COMMUNITY SUPPORT

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

Legislative invocations have been recognized as a means by which a legislative body, a council, a board, or commission may, through the use of selected speakers, seek blessing and guidance in accomplishing its governmental work.

The benefits of an invocation before a meeting can vary depending on the specific beliefs and practices of the individuals involved. However, here are some general benefits that are often associated with an invocation:

- **Centering and Focus:** An invocation can help to center and focus the group before the meeting begins, which can help to increase the effectiveness and productivity of the meeting.
- **Promotes Unity:** An invocation can help to create a sense of unity among the group members, regardless of their individual beliefs. This can help to promote cooperation and collaboration during the meeting.
- **Provides Inspiration:** An invocation can provide inspiration and motivation for the group, which can help to set a positive tone for the meeting.
- **Encourages Reflection:** An invocation can encourage individuals to reflect on their values and goals, which can help to promote a deeper level of engagement and commitment to the meeting.
- **Acknowledges Diversity:** An invocation can provide an opportunity to acknowledge and respect the diversity of beliefs and practices among the group members.

Overall, an invocation can help to set a positive and productive tone for the meeting, while also promoting a sense of unity and respect among the group members.

This Board item seeks to request that the Superintendent of Schools in consultation with the Office of General Counsel create a process, procedure and/or policy that would allow for

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legislative invocations before each regular School Board meeting that would be legally permissible and consistent with the United States Constitution, the Constitution of the State of Florida, and by binding precedent of the United States Supreme Court and the Eleventh Circuit Court of Appeals.

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

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

That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida to authorize the Superintendent of Schools in consultation with the Office of General Counsel to:

1. Create a process, procedure and/or policy that would allow for legislative invocations before each regular School Board meeting and that would be legally permissible and consistent with the United States Constitution, the Constitution of the State of Florida, and by binding precedent of the United States Supreme Court and the Eleventh Circuit Court of Appeals;
2. Report findings concerning potential options for a process, procedure and/or policy for legislative invocations to the Board at the June 14, 2023, Personnel, Student, School & Community Support Committee Meeting; and;
3. Initiate Rulemaking, if appropriate, by the July 19, 2023, regular School Board meeting.

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