

progress, and success of the M-DCPS have been indisputable. M-DCPS' consecutive A-rating has been largely achieved on the shoulders of our classroom teachers.

In addition, the work of teachers has consistently played a significant role in the success and prosperity of the local community. Although each individual and collective stakeholder played and continues to play a significant role in the overall success of the District, the many achievements, accolades, and awards received by M-DCPS have been a direct result of the hard work, dedication, and often personal, professional, and financial sacrifices of our teachers.

Yet, despite these realities, our teachers too often remained the unsung heroes of our time, and often went without the professional recognition and compensation they deserved.

In 2018, the voters of this community answered the call and began the initial, local, and financially sacrificial steps to change that. On November 8, 2022, the voters of Miami-Dade County overwhelmingly reaffirmed their commitment to public education. With a 65% to 35% vote in *favor* of the referendum, the community, during some of the most politically divisive and economically challenging times, stood in solidarity and in support of schools, teachers, school resource officers and most importantly, students.

With the upcoming adoption of the 2023-2024 annual budget, the Board has recognized and embraced the need and value of both short- and long-range financial planning. And although the referendum is approved for a 4-year cycle, there is much prudence in reviewing, understanding, and discussing the real impact that referendum funds have on the overall budget, operation of the school district, school safety, and most important, student learning and absent such funds what the District's financial scenario and outlook would look like.

In doing so, it is imperative that the School Board considers some essential, material facts, beginning with the Required Local Effort (RLE) mandated by the State. Some facts for the Board to consider are, that in addition to the RLE:

First, there are three (3) discretionary millage levies:

- 748 mills for operations
- 1.5 mills for capital purposes, which now must be shared with charter schools; and
- 1.0 mills for teacher salary enhancements and school safety voted by the people, which must also be shared with charter schools.

The key policy is that these taxing authorities are *discretionary* or optional. The School Board does *not* have to vote for these levies; however, failure to vote for these levies would have serious consequences in the operation of the district and capital budgets as well as teacher salaries and school safety.

It is important to note that the 1.0 levy is authorized for up to 4 years. The upcoming annual budget cycle reflects the second authorization of this levy authorized by the voters of Miami-Dade County in which the School Board levies the maximum amounts in the current budget for each of the discretionary millages and votes separately on every year. Lastly, there is language in our collective bargaining agreements that the enhancements passed by the electorate are subject to School Board's approval each year. Thus, an analysis on the impact of each optional levy should be conducted and presented as a part of the 2023-2024 annual budget presented to the School Board for review, discussion, and subsequent approval. Doing so would provide clear and concise context and understanding of the potential impact of referendum on the district.

This item seeks to direct the Superintendent to develop budget scenarios on the fiscal impact of the referendum, based on the annual millage levy options and include these scenarios in the budget presentation for the 2023-2024 annual budget.

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

**ACTION PROPOSED BY
DR. STEVE GALLON III:**

That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida directs the Superintendent to develop budget scenarios on the fiscal impact of the referendum, based on the annual millage levy options and include these scenarios in the budget presentation for the 2023-2024 annual budget.