

Mr. Danny Espino, Vice Chair

SUBJECT: SEARCHABLE ARCHIVED AGENDA ITEM DATABASE

COMMITTEE: FISCAL ACCOUNTABILITY & GOVERNMENT RELATIONS

LINK TO STRATEGIC PLAN: RELEVANT, RIGOROUS, & INNOVATIVE ACADEMICS

For Board members to better serve in their capacity as public servants, committed to voice the concerns of parents, students, and the community at large, all their actions relating to Board Policy should be as transparent as possible. To this end, all agenda items proffered by all School Board Members and made available to the public via the School Board Agenda should be available in an easily searchable way to all District stakeholders. An easy to use, searchable agenda database would provide the public with quick access to information about what topics are being discussed and what decisions are being taken by the Board.

At the October 19, 2022, Board meeting, School Board Chairperson Ms. Perla Tabares Hantman proffered agenda item H-14 (“Board Archives”). This item was Co-Sponsored by Dr. Steve Gallon, III, Vice Chair, Dr. Dorothy Bendross-Mindingall, Dr. Lubby Navarro, Dr. Marta Perez, Ms. Mari T ere Rojas, and Ms. Luisa Santos. Agenda item H-14 directed the Superintendent of Schools “to explore the creation of an electronic database to serve as digital Board archives.” These archives currently exist and are only searchable by year and Board Meeting date. School Board Members, the community, and all District stakeholders would benefit if these archives could be augmented and expanded to include additional search parameters. The District’s Information Technology Services (ITS) has worked diligently during the 2022-2023 school year to find such a solution. One that would make Board agenda items searchable by keyword, the Board Member sponsoring the item, and/or subject matter. BoardDocs is the software program that currently manages the online website for our Board Policies. This software was evaluated to determine if it could be used as a searchable data base for Board agenda items and it was determined by ITS that BoardDocs would not be able to accommodate a searchable database with expanded search parameters. Currently there is no vendor that can facilitate the creation of a more effective searchable database.

This agenda item seeks to authorize the Superintendent of Schools to explore the feasibility of creating this searchable digital database, in-house, by a team of software developers at ITS. This item also asks, that if it is determined that this solution can be developed by District software developers, that the database be created and added as a permanent section to the District’s Website to provide the public with user-friendly access to archived Board agenda items.

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. Explore the feasibility of creating a searchable digital database using ITS software developers that can be searched by keyword, Board Member name, and/or subject matter and that;
2. If it is determined that this software solution can be developed by the District's in-house software developers, that the database be created and added as a permanent section to the District's Website to provide the public with user-friendly access to archived Board Agenda Items.