

Dr. Bendross-Mindingall, Board Member

SUBJECT: THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA, ENDORSE NOVEMBER 13 through 17, 2023, AS HUNGER AND HOMELESSNESS AWARENESS WEEK THROUGHOUT MIAMI-DADE COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS (M-DCPS)

COMMITTEE: ACADEMICS, INNOVATION, EVALUATION & TECHNOLOGY

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

The week of November 13 - 17, 2023 is designated as National Hunger and Homelessness Awareness Week. Each year, this observance is held the week before Thanksgiving. The face of homelessness is evolving and many of those identified as being homeless are now children. It must be our collective goal to provide meaningful assistance to them and raise awareness about the challenges that they and their families face.

According to the Miami-Dade County Homeless Trust's Census Report, as of January 26, 2023, 608 people were counted living on the street in Miami, and another 2,307 otherwise homeless people were sleeping in shelters. Currently, our school district's Project Upstart oversees approximately 5,000 homeless students enrolled in our schools. These children are either in an emergency shelter (temporary care), transitional shelter (primary care), motels, or hotels.

Miami-Dade County Public Schools prides itself, and rightfully so, in the work we do and the partnerships we forge to ensure that no child in the county goes hungry. In raising year-long awareness about hunger and homelessness in our community, we hope to foster a culture built on compassion and empathy, letting vulnerable children know that despite circumstances or obstacles, there is an informed community that cares about them.

Miami-Dade County Public Schools can make a difference and bring awareness to this issue. Miami-Dade County Public Schools can advocate for our homeless children and families in need and remind them that they are not forgotten.

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

ACTION PROPOSED BY

DR. DOROTHY BENDROSS-MINDINGALL: That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, endorse the week of November 13 - 17, 2023, as National Hunger and Homelessness Awareness Week.