

Mr. Danny Espino, Board Member

**SUBJECT: INVENTORY OF VACANT DISTRICT PARCELS FOR TEACHERS AND NON-INSTRUCTIONAL PERSONNEL HOUSING**

**COMMITTEE: FACILITIES & CONSTRUCTION**

**LINK TO STRATEGIC PLAN: EFFECTIVE & SUSTAINABLE OPERATIONAL PRACTICES**

Miami-Dade County Public Schools (M-DCPS), the largest employer in Miami-Dade County, provides diverse employment opportunities including teaching and numerous non-instructional positions. As the third largest school district in the United States, serving over 300,000 students and employing more than 34,000 individuals, the recruitment and retention of its workforce are paramount to the District's dedication to delivering a world-class education.

Acknowledging the challenges inherent in retaining and recruiting such a substantial workforce, the Office of Human Capital Management diligently oversees these efforts to ensure that all positions, spanning various crucial roles, are promptly filled. In this context, exploring vacant parcels, or school sites with vacant land on District property for teachers and non-instructional housing, should become an integral part of the District's strategic approach to workforce management.

Miami-Dade County Public Schools is committed to providing its workforce with the best possible incentives to assist with the high cost of living in South Florida. As part of its innovative approach to retaining and recruiting employees, the District has partnered with other municipalities and Miami-Dade County to redesign a couple of schools, Southside Preparatory Academy and Phillis Wheatley Elementary School, to include areas for teachers and other members of the school staff to live affordably on campus.

The Florida Legislature and Governor Ron DeSantis have acknowledged the need for affordable workforce housing by investing \$711 million and by passing Senate Bill (SB) 102, the Live Local Act, signed into law in March 2023. This legislation was designed to expand the availability of housing and down payment assistance to support Florida's workforce and their families living where they work.

This item seeks to ask the Superintendent of Schools to in accordance with federal and state laws and applicable School Board policies, direct all relevant departments to conduct a meticulous inventory of vacant District parcels as well as sites with excess land and evaluate which of these parcels are suitable for workforce housing using, but not limited to, the following criteria as a guide:

- Parcels that are centrally located within a feeder pattern.
- Parcels that are on or adjacent to school sites.
- Parcels that have easy access to roadways.
- Parcels that would have the capability of hosting meaningful projects with amenities.
- Parcels that are not earmarked for expansion or athletic fields/recreational use.
- Any other criteria deemed appropriate by relevant departments.

This item has been reviewed and approved by the Office of the General Counsel 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. In accordance with federal and state laws and applicable School Board policies, conduct a meticulous inventory of vacant District parcels as well as sites with excess land and evaluate which of these parcels are suitable for workforce housing;
2. The criteria to be used for identifying parcels suitable for workforce housing include, but are not limited to, parcels that are centrally located within a feeder pattern, parcels that are on or adjacent to school sites, parcels that have easy access to roadways, parcels that have the capability of hosting meaningful projects with amenities, and any other criteria deemed appropriate by District personnel; and
3. Provide a report on this request to the Facilities Construction Committee by February 7, 2024.