

Mr. Danny Espino, Board Member

SUBJECT: SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION TASK FORCE

COMMITTEE: FACILITIES & CONSTRUCTION

LINK TO STRATEGIC PLAN: EFFECTIVE & SUSTAINABLE OPERATIONAL PRACTICES

Miami-Dade County Public Schools (MDCPS) is committed to providing safe and modern learning environments for all students. Over the years, M-DCPS has undertaken numerous school construction projects to meet the growing needs of our student population. These projects have included the construction of new schools, the renovation of existing facilities, and the installation of modern technology and equipment.

All MDCPS construction projects fall under the oversight of the Office of Capital Improvement, which is committed to building the future in a safe and responsible manner. This office manages the design, pre-construction, construction, and warranty of capital projects of all MDCPS facilities.

To increase the transparency, efficiency, and effectiveness of the District's school construction process, and ensure alignment and compliance with pertinent State statutes and Board Policy, School Board Member Danny Espino proffered Agenda Item H-5 (School Construction Task Force) at the July 19, 2023, Board Meeting. This item was co-sponsored by all Board Members and established a School Construction Task Force, whose role is strictly advisory in nature. This task force is responsible for identifying the root causes of inefficiencies in this process and developing solutions for, among other things, improvement to general contract conditions, deadlines required by State and Federal Law, compliance with the Florida Prompt Pay Act, improved construction retainage and project close out practices, and the development of procedures to improve the tracking of project warranties.

The School Construction Task Force will not interfere with or contradict Board Policy 6320.03, *Bids and Award of Construction Contracts Procedures and Regulations*, or any other pertinent State law or regulation. Instead, the task force will regularly review school construction related inefficiencies and make recommendations to the Board.

As was specified by Agenda Item H-, the School Construction Task Force shall remain in existence from its inception for no more than 120 days to provide the Board policy recommendations. The Task Force shall sunset upon presenting the Board with its recommendations unless extended by an affirmative vote of the Board. To ensure stakeholder and community involvement, each Board Member will appoint one member and an alternate to the task force from the school construction field, such as but not limited to contractors, engineers, architects, or construction attorneys.

As was previously envisioned, District participation will be ensured by the Superintendent of Schools appointing two staff members from the Facilities Construction Committee. These two members of the School Construction Task Force will be ex officio (non-voting) members.

This item seeks to amend the composition of the previously established School Construction Task Force to allow for greater stakeholder participation, by eliminating the requirement that School Board Member appointees have done work for the District within the last five years and to include construction attorneys. The task force will work towards achieving the objectives outlined in this item and provide recommendations on its operations, including staff support, meeting frequency, reporting to the Board, and any other suggestions regarding its composition.

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, in order to allow for greater stakeholder participation authorize an amendment to the composition of the School Construction Task Force, which was created after the School Board's approval of Agenda Item H-5 (School Construction Task Force), presented by Board Member Danny Espino at the July 19, 2023, Board meeting, to include one member and an alternate to the task force from the school construction field, such as but not limited to contractors, engineers, architects, or construction attorneys, and to eliminate the requirement that School Board Member appointees have done work for the District within the last five years.