

Ms. Luisa Santos, Board Member

Co-Sponsors: Ms. Lucia Baez-Geller }
Dr. Steve Gallon III } A
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SUBJECT: HYBRID CITIZENS' ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETINGS

COMMITTEE: FISCAL ACCOUNTABILITY & GOVERNMENT RELATIONS

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

Currently, Citizens' Advisory Committees' meetings vary in terms of accessibility. Some hold in-person-only options, while others provide some form of a hybrid experience. Given the lack of uniformity in these meetings, many participants are left unable to attend or access the publicly advertised advisory committee meetings through the various forms of available communications media technology.

For instance, if these meetings offered access through a platform such as Zoom, volunteer advisory committee members would have real-time access to participate in advisory committee discussions and decision-making when in-person participation is impracticable. In addition, Board member aids, district staff, and members of the public could view and/or listen to the meetings.

Such an option would be a significant step forward. It would reaffirm our dedication to fostering open dialogue and ensuring that community voices play an integral role in shaping the future of our schools. Moreover, by providing greater accessibility for publicly advertised advisory committee meetings, we will promote greater accountability, transparency, and public participation in the governance of our school district.

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

**ACTION PROPOSED BY
MS. LUISA SANTOS:**

That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, direct the Superintendent to:

1. Amend Policy 9140, *Citizen Advisory Committees*, to require that members of advisory committee shall be allowed to participate in publicly noticed advisory committee meetings via telecommunications technology, such as video conferencing;

2. Review the feasibility of providing telecommunication technology access, such as a Zoom link, to Advisory Committee Meetings so that:
 - a. Advisory committee members may attend and participate in publicly advertised advisory committee meetings virtually, to the greatest extent permitted by law;
 - b. Board aids, district personnel, and the public may view the publicly advertised advisory committee meeting virtually; and
3. Provide a report to the Board by the August 7, 2024, School Board Meeting.