

Ms. Maria Teresa Rojas, Chair

SUBJECT: REVIEW OF SAFETY AND SECURITY PROCEDURES, PROTOCOLS, TRAININGS AND PUBLIC INFORMATION CAMPAIGNS

COMMITTEE: PERSONNEL, STUDENT, SCHOOL & COMMUNITY SUPPORT

LINK TO STRATEGIC PLAN: SAFE, HEALTHY, & SUPPORTIVE LEARNING ENVIRONMENTS

A major priority of the School Board has been the safety of students, employees and all our stakeholders who visit Miami-Dade County Public Schools (M-DCPS) educational and ancillary facilities. As a new school year is about to begin, a periodic review of the implementation of our current safety procedures and protocols in place is critical to ensuring that M-DCPS is implementing the most viable security measures available, which are critical to ensuring that visitors to M-DCPS during the 2024-25 school year are as safe as possible.

At the School Board Meeting of June 22, 2022, the School Board approved Agenda Item H-10, proffered by School Board Chair Ms. Maria Teresa Rojas and co-sponsored by School Board Members Dr. Steve Gallon III, Dr. Dorothy Bendross-Mindingall, Ms. Lucia Baez-Geller, and former School Board Members Ms. Christi Fraga and Dr. Marta Pérez. This item directed the Superintendent of Schools to work with District staff and local first-responders, and the M-DCPS Districtwide Safety and Security Committee, to further review and evaluate current school safety and security protocols, procedures, and training, including social media postings; the implementation of Alyssa's Alert; and conduct an in-depth examination of recent school shootings, including the recommendations of the Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School Public Safety Commission and public data for mental health services, regarding student assessment, program implementation, qualifications of mental health staff and providers, and any recommended enhanced actions to be considered.

As a result, the Chief of School Police, and Assistant Superintendent of Mental Health and Student Services, made recommendations that included:

- reviewing the deployment of armed law enforcement personnel or School Resource Officers (SROs) in every district school;
- instituting a requirement for locked classroom and exterior doors;
- designating a secure single point of entry;
- establishing visitor screening protocols;

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- securing all gates and secondary entry points;
- increasing staff visibility during high-traffic periods;
- designating safe spaces in classrooms and throughout campus;
- conducting annual active assailant response training for all district employees;
- conducting monthly emergency drills at all schools;
- establishing threat management teams at all schools;
- instituting randomized metal detection programs;
- monitoring of over 18,000 surveillance cameras in the Police Command Center;
- SROs participating in monthly emergency drills and threat assessment meetings at school sites;
- establishing anonymous tip reporting systems;
- implementing a Mobile Panic Alert Button at all schools;
- conducting annual school safety risk assessments;
- deploying a proactive K-9 Unit;
- establishing an Incident Containment Team (ICT) comprised of 19 sworn personnel; and
- providing a copy of master keys to law enforcement and Annual two-day Mass Casualty Attack Response Training in partnership with Miami-Dade County Fire Rescue.

The M-DCPS Safety and Security personnel, in consultation with the County's 911 authority and local emergency management office, also developed a local public safety answering point (PSAP) infrastructure active assailant response plan and an integrated mobile panic alert system, also known as "Alyssa's Alert," to transmit calls and mobile activations throughout each school campus. Board Policy 8410 *Emergency Management, Preparedness, and Response*, and the District's Emergency Operations Plan (EOP), has also been updated to encapsulate these procedures and protocols in Board Policy.

Recently, the Florida Legislature passed House Bill 1473 (H.B. 1473), which becomes effective August 1, 2024, and the State Board of Education promulgated rules 6A-1.0018 and 6A-1.0019, which require schools to keep all gates or other access points on a school campus closed and locked when students are on campus, unless they are attended or actively staffed by a person; to keep all school classrooms and other instructional spaces locked when occupied by students, except between class periods; and to clearly and conspicuously mark the safest areas in each classroom or other instructional space where students must shelter in place during an emergency and notify students of these safe areas. In addition, the Superintendent, in consultation with the Office of the General Counsel, has begun the process of initiating rulemaking to Policies 1210, 3210, and 4210, *Standards of Ethical Conduct*, to allow M-DCPS to progressively discipline personnel who knowingly violate these campus access control and classroom safest area requirements. All employees, students, vendors and school visitors must be notified and trained in order to be aware of these new safety requirements and to report known violations to the school principal (or, if the principal is alleged to have violated these requirements, to the Superintendent).

These new requirements developed from a review of current safety and security emergency operating procedures and mental health supports will require that new safety procedures be established, coupled with appropriate training and appropriate information campaigns throughout M-DCPS, to ensure that employees, students, vendors, outside organizations, and school visitors are aware of these revised requirements and the potential consequences associated with violations of these requirements.

Good cause exists to vary from the published agenda because the new statutory safety and security requirements take effect on August 1, 2024, and a review of existing safety and security requirements should occur well in advance of the new school year.

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

**ACTION PROPOSED BY CHAIR
MS. MARIA TERESA ROJAS:**

That the School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, authorize the Superintendent of Schools to:

1. review current safety and security emergency operating procedures and protocols, the current training materials, applicable policies, mental health supports and procedures to ensure preparedness to undertake appropriate action, as deemed feasible for critical incidents at all educational and ancillary facilities owned and controlled by M-DCPS;
2. upon completion of the review, revise current operating procedures, protocols, employee training materials, and develop a broader scope of informational campaigns, if deemed necessary and appropriate, in order to ensure full implementation of any applicable safety and security requirements; and
3. report back to the School Board by the August 13, 2024, regular School Board meeting in a suitable format(s) and in an appropriate manner if confidential and exempt information is included.