

Ms. Luisa Santos, Board Member

**SUBJECT: TRAVEL APPROVAL AND AUTHORIZATION**

**COMMITTEE: FISCAL ACCOUNTABILITY & GOVERNMENT RELATIONS**

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

The Miami-Dade County Public Schools (M-DCPS) is committed to full compliance with all School Board Policy and statutory requirements. In order to allow reimbursement to School Board members from the M-DCPS school fund, for travel expenses incurred in the exercise of their duties and responsibilities as Board members, section 1001.39, Florida Statutes (2024), and Board Policy 6550, *Travel and Per Diem*, provides that “any travel outside the district that exceeds \$500 requires prior approval by the district school board to confirm that such travel is for official business of the school district and complies with rules of the State Board of Education.” Section 1001.39 also requires that: “Any request for travel outside the state must include an itemized list detailing all anticipated travel expenses, including, but not limited to, the anticipated costs of all means of travel, lodging, and subsistence.”

Pursuant to state requirements, the School Board approves travel for School Board Members to conferences, meetings, and official events and related activities in furtherance of the official business of M-DCPS. This item seeks to request that the School Board authorize and approve School Board Members to attend two upcoming conferences that provide insight to the educational and economic advancement of the M-DCPS and state of Florida.

**Conference Overviews:**

**Florida's Future Billions Convening:**

- Organized by the Helios Education Foundation, this convening will explore the transformative power of expanding college access in Florida, focusing on the economic, societal, and individual gains that can be achieved. The event will feature the release of the groundbreaking "Florida's Future Billions" report, which highlights the substantial economic advantages of broadening college access. Participants will engage with industry leaders, including prominent figures in postsecondary education and economic development, to discuss strategies for enhancing postsecondary attainment and driving economic prosperity across the state. School Board Members have been vital in driving policy to increase postsecondary access for the students of Miami-Dade. This is in furtherance of the official business of the M-DCPS because this convening will allow School Board Members to more effectively advance policies around postsecondary attainment for all of our Miami Dade County Public School students.
- This convening will take place in Orlando, Florida on September 26, 2024. The anticipated cost for this trip is \$874. An itemized list of costs is attached to the item.

**National Summit on Education:**

- Organized by ExcelinEd, the National Summit on Education is recognized as the nation’s premier gathering of education policymakers, state education chiefs, and advocates. This annual event convenes over a thousand leaders to exchange results-based solutions and strategies for transforming education. The Summit features in-depth strategy sessions, highlighting evolving laws, trends, successful policies, and innovations critical to improving education nationwide. This is in furtherance of the official business of the M-DCPS because this convening will allow School Board Members to advance policies more effectively by engaging in thought partnership and learning from best practices around the nation with other education leaders.
- This summit will take place in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma on November 13 - 15, 2024. The anticipated cost for this trip is \$1,071. An itemized list of costs is attached to the item.

This item seeks to request that the School Board authorize and approve School Board Members to attend the conferences, meetings, official events, and related activities pertaining to the conferences. It also requests that the attendance at these conferences be included in the 2024-2025 list of approved travel, as required by state statute and School Board Policy. A copy of the list of anticipated travel by School Board members and the requisite itemization of associated costs will be on file and available for inspection by the public, in the Office of the Board Recording Secretary, Room 924 and in the Citizen Information Center, Room 102, 1450 N. E. Second Avenue, Miami, Florida 33132.

This item does not appear on the published Agenda. Good cause exists to vary from the published agenda because School Board Members were invited to attend these convenings after the agenda was published, it is necessary to properly pre-approve Board members travel for official business of the M-DCPS as required by law, and there is insufficient time for such approval of travel by the Board members for the Florida Future Billions Convening that will take place before the next regularly scheduled School Board meeting.

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

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

That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida:

1. Authorize and approve School Board Members travel to attend the Florida's Future Billions Convening and National Summit on Education conferences, meetings, official events, and related activities pertaining to both conferences, which is incorporated by reference;
2. Find that said travel is for the official business of the M-DCPS as required by Board Policy and the Rules of the State Board of Education; and
3. Authorize the Superintendent to include the conferences in the 2024-2025 list of approved travel for the School Board members.

**ANTICIPATED TRAVEL COST - BOARD MEMBERS**

<b>Conference/ Event</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Transportation</b>	<b>Taxi/Tolls / Parking</b>	<b>Hotel</b>	<b>Meals</b>	<b>Estimated Total</b>	<b>Estimated # of Days</b>
Florida's Future Billions Convening	Orlando, FL	\$250	\$80	\$470	\$74	\$874	2
National Summit on Education	Oklahoma City, Oklahoma	\$450	\$120	\$390	\$111	\$1,071	3