

Mr. Danny Espino, Board Member

**SUBJECT: CONDEMNATION OF ALL VIOLENCE PERPETRATED ON THE STATE OF ISRAEL**

**COMMITTEE: PERSONNEL, STUDENT, SCHOOL & COMMUNITY SUPPORT**

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

The School Board of Miami-Dade County unequivocally condemns acts of violence that threaten the safety and security of any nation, particularly those that harm civilians and disrupt the education and well-being of young people. As educators, we reaffirm our commitment to teaching our students the importance of peace, diplomacy, and constructive dialogue as the most effective means to resolve conflicts and build a better future for all.

Our community also values the peaceful expression of beliefs, the importance of civil discourse, and the right to live without fear of violence. As educators and leaders of Miami-Dade County Public Schools, we are committed to fostering an environment that upholds these values, teaching our students the importance of resolving conflicts through non-violent means and encouraging active, informed participation in the global community.

Accordingly, we recognize the anniversary of the October 7, 2023, attacks on Israel, which resulted in immense loss of life and injury to countless innocent civilians. These tragic events continue to have a profound impact on the international community, reminding us of the devastating consequences of violence and the urgent need for peaceful solutions to conflicts. Additionally, we acknowledge the recent missile attacks on Israel by Iran, which have further deepened the suffering and instability in the region.

We are acutely aware that the impact of these events extends beyond borders, affecting the emotional and mental well-being of students within our community, particularly those with personal or familial connections to the region. Therefore, it is critical that we provide our students with the support they need to process these events in a healthy and constructive manner. Similarly, the School Board of Miami-Dade County condemns the acts of violence perpetrated on the state of Israel, beginning with the tragedies of October 7 and continuing through today.

The purpose of this item is to request that the Superintendent offer District mental health services, such as counseling, made available to all schools across the District to support students who may be affected by the recent events in Israel, including the anniversary of the October 7 attacks. These resources may assist students in coping with their emotions, fostering resilience, and maintaining their well-being in the face of global crises. Through peaceful engagement and constructive debate, we can address our differences and build a more just, unified, and compassionate world.

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:

1. condemns the use of all violence perpetrated on the state of Israel and expresses its deepest sympathy for the victims of this violence, and;
2. as a means of reinforcing, for all our students, important educational values such as non-violence and to embrace peaceful and constructive dialogue and mutual respect, request that the Superintendent offer District mental health services, such as counseling, to those students who may have been affected by the recent events in Israel, including the anniversary of the October 7 attacks.