

Mr. Roberto J. Alonso, Board Member

SUBJECT: MEDICAL SERVICES EVALUATION AT HIGH-IMPACT SPORTING EVENTS FOR STUDENT SAFETY

COMMITTEE: PERSONNEL, STUDENT, SCHOOL & COMMUNITY SUPPORT

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

In our ongoing commitment to the health and well-being of all student-athletes within Miami-Dade County Public Schools (MDCPS), it is imperative to address the critical need for enhanced medical services and comprehensive safety protocols at high-impact sporting events. At the June 21, 2023, School Board Meeting, Board Member Roberto J. Alonso proposed board item H-8, seeking the Board’s approval to explore partnerships with local medical providers to deliver heart screenings—specifically electrocardiogram (ECG/EKG) screenings—at low or no cost for all Miami-Dade County Public Schools high school students participating in athletics. This initiative aims to help identify athletes at risk for sudden cardiac arrest, reinforcing our commitment to the safety of student-athletes.

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As participation in competitive sports continues to grow, so too does the necessity for effective safety measures for our student-athletes. Building on this commitment, at the September 6, 2023, School Board Meeting, Board Member Roberto J. Alonso proposed board item H-7, seeking the Board’s approval to explore partnerships with local municipalities and Miami-Dade County. This initiative aimed to ensure that an emergency response vehicle is available at District sporting events, reducing response times in emergencies and ensuring proper care is rendered. While these events foster athletic skill and teamwork, they also present unique challenges that can impact student safety.

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High-impact sporting events pose distinct challenges regarding the health and safety of student-athletes. To that end, this item requests a thorough evaluation of the current medical services and safety protocols at high-impact sporting events within MDCPS.

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This evaluation will focus on several critical areas, including:

- **On-Field Medical Support:** Assessing the adequacy of medical staffing at events, ensuring trained professionals are available to respond to any injuries or emergencies.
- **Availability of Medical Equipment:** Conducting an inventory of essential medical equipment—such as Automated External Defibrillators (AEDs) and first aid kits—to ensure that all necessary tools are accessible and in good condition.
- **Training and Qualifications of Medical Personnel:** Evaluating the training and certification of medical staff to ensure they are equipped with the knowledge and skills to provide effective care during events.
- **Coordination with Local Emergency Services:** Reviewing existing protocols for communication and collaboration with local emergency responders during emergencies.
- **Emergency Response Times:** Analyzing response times for medical emergencies, identifying any delays in care, and implementing strategies to improve efficiency.

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By focusing on these areas, we aim to create a comprehensive strategy that not only meets but exceeds safety standards for our student-athletes. Our goal is to foster a culture of safety, enabling athletes to compete confidently and ensuring that all participants have access to the highest level of medical care during high-impact sporting events.

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This evaluation underscores our commitment to creating a safe environment where students can thrive both on and off the field. By prioritizing medical readiness and safety measures, we can protect our student-athletes, support their physical and emotional well-being, and promote a culture of safety within our schools.

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This board item requests that the Superintendent of Schools provide a detailed analysis of the medical services offered at high impact sporting events, including the presence of athletic trainers, medical doctors, and other medical personnel. We also seek information on the types of medical equipment available on-site during these events, along with a report on the number of calls for service made during the past two years, including average response times, the number of transports, and trauma alerts. Additionally, an analysis explaining why MDCPS does not have fire rescue services contracted at high-impact events contrasting this with other districts along with recommendations for improving safety measures if gaps in current protocols are identified.

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

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This item does not appear on the published Agenda. There exists good cause to vary from the published agenda because the concerns addressed herein arose after the publication of the agenda. Any issues indicating potential harm to the health and well-being of student-athletes within Miami-Dade County Public Schools participating in high-impact sports should be reviewed and addressed as expeditiously as possible.

**ACTION PROPOSED BY
MR. ROBERTO J. ALONSO:**

That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, request that the Superintendent of Schools to:

1. provide a detailed analysis of the medical services provided at high impact sporting events, including presence of athletic trainers, medical doctors, and other medical personnel, and the types of medical equipment available on-site during these events;
2. report on the number of calls for service made during these events over the past two years, including average response times, if available;
3. report on the number of transports and trauma alerts that occurred;
4. explain any differences between MDCPS's fire rescue service agreements for these events with those of other Florida school districts;
5. report back to the Board before the November 13, 2024, Personnel, Student, School & Community Support Committee Meeting, with relevant findings, recommended options to address the identified concerns, in a format and/or forum deemed appropriate for the subject matter.