

Ms. Luisa Santos, Board Member

**SUBJECT: TRAVEL APPROVAL AND AUTHORIZATION**

**COMMITTEE: FISCAL ACCOUNTABILITY & GOVERNMENT RELATIONS**

**LINK TO STRATEGIC PLAN: EFFECTIVE AND SUSTAINABLE BUSINESS PRACTICES**

The Miami-Dade County Public Schools (M-DCPS) is committed to full compliance with all School Board Policy and statutory requirements. 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 requests that the School Board authorize and approve School Board Members to attend upcoming conferences that provide insight to the educational and economic advancement of the M-DCPS and state of Florida.

### **Conference Overviews:**

#### **The Green Schools Conference**

- The Annual Green Schools Conference (GSC) brings together everyone involved in creating and advocating for green schools, with a focus on those leading their schools and school systems toward whole-school sustainability. GSC brings together a diverse audience of leaders impacting the green schools movement in education, including educators, school leaders, school district-level facilities and operations staff, green building professionals, non-profit partners, and green school advocates. Attendees will receive action-oriented training across disciplines and have the opportunity to exchange best practices and enhance green school initiatives nationwide. Attendance at this conference is in furtherance of the official business of the M-DCPS because this convening will allow School Board Members to gain valuable insights into sustainable practices, collaborate with industry experts, and explore innovative strategies that can be implemented to enhance environmental stewardship and equity in schools within the district.
- The conference will take place in Orlando, Florida on March 3 – 4, 2025. The anticipated cost for this trip is \$1,410. An itemized list of costs is attached to the item.

#### **CoSN 2025: Human Leadership In A World of AI**

- Organized by The Consortium for School Networking, CoSN2025 Human Leadership In A World of AI will explore the latest trends in EdTech. This conference offers opportunities to network, learn, and engage in discussions on critical issues facing school districts, including Cybersecurity, Digital Equity, and the rapidly evolving topic of

Artificial Intelligence. Attendees will gain valuable insights into these pressing challenges and learn from innovative solutions taking place in school districts nationwide. Attendance at this conference supports the official business of M-DCPS by enabling School Board Members to stay informed on emerging technologies, collaborate with industry experts, and develop strategies to enhance the district's digital infrastructure and technology initiatives.

- This summit will take place in Seattle, Washington on March 31 - April 2, 2025. The anticipated cost for this trip is \$2,709. An itemized list of costs is attached to the item.

### **FETC 2025 - Future of Education Technology Conference**

- The Future of Education Technology Conference (FETC) serves as a premier gathering for K-12 professionals looking to enhance their educational technology skills to shape the future of education. This conference offers participants the chance to attend sessions with industry leaders, engage with innovative technologies, and connect with a network of educators focused on educational transformation. Attendance at FETC 2025 will enable School Board Members to gain actionable insights from K-12 education experts, explore the latest edtech tools to enhance teaching and student outcomes, and bring back strategies and innovations that directly benefit M-DCPS students and faculty. The professional development acquired can drive forward-thinking solutions and educational advancements for the district as it strives to continue to be a national leader in this space.
- This conference will take place in Orlando, Florida on January 14 - January 17, 2025. The anticipated cost for the trip is \$2,287. An itemized list of costs is attached to the item.

### **Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development (ASCD) 2025 Leading Without Limits and International Society for Technology in Education (ISTE) ISTE Live 2025 Co-located Conferences:**

- ASCD and ISTE are joining forces to offer a transformative professional learning experience by co-locating their annual conferences in 2025. This event will empower educators to advance student learning outcomes through the seamless integration of technology and effective pedagogy. Attendees will engage with some of the brightest minds in education, explore how technology can drive curiosity, and discover new ways to make learning both meaningful and engaging. Attending the ASCD and ISTE Live 2025 co-located conferences will provide School Board Members with an opportunity to connect with education leaders, explore cutting-edge practices, and gather insights on integrating technology to elevate instructional quality and student outcomes. The knowledge and skills acquired will help Board Members think of the best ways to support M-DCPS educators and spearhead impactful educational practices across the district.
- This conference will take place in San Antonio, Texas on June 29 - July 2, 2025. The anticipated cost for the trip is \$2,088. An itemized list of costs is attached to the item.

### **2025 Plain Talk About Literacy and Learning:**

- The 2025 Plain Talk About Literacy and Learning® conference is the nation's premier literacy institute, providing a focused and evidence-based approach to reading research and instructional strategies for educators across all grade levels. The institute will cover a wide array of critical topics, including adolescent literacy, dyslexia, comprehension, and phonics. Attendees will engage in sessions led by the nation's top literacy experts and seasoned practitioners, gaining practical skills and strategies to enhance student achievement. Attending this conference will equip School Board Members with cutting-edge knowledge and actionable strategies to improve literacy outcomes district wide.

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- This conference will take place in New Orleans, Louisiana on February 12 - 14, 2025. The anticipated cost for the trip is \$1,608. An itemized list of costs is attached to the item.

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This item seeks to request that the School Board authorize and approve School Board Members who wish 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 has been reviewed and approved as to form and legal sufficiency by the Office of the General Counsel.

**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 (a) the Green Schools Conference, (b) CoSN 2025: Human Leadership In A World of AI Conference, (c) FETC 2025 - Future of Education Technology Conference, and (d) ASCD 2025 Leading Without Limits, and ISTE Live 2025 Co-located conferences, (e) 2025 Plain Talk About Literacy and Learning; and meetings, official events, and activities pertaining to these conferences and in accordance with the anticipated travel costs, which is incorporated by reference; and
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 these conferences in the 2024-2025 list of approved travel for the School Board members.

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<b>ANTICIPATED TRAVEL COST - BOARD MEMBERS</b>							
<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>
The Annual Green Schools Conference	Orlando, FL	\$300	\$80	\$847	\$148	\$1,410	4
CoSN25: Human Leadership In A World of AI	Seattle, WA	\$500	\$120	\$1,933	\$148	\$2,709	4
FETC 2025 - Future of Education Technology Conference	Orlando, FL	\$300	\$80	\$1,722	\$185	\$2,287	5
ASCD 2025 Leading Without Limits and ISTE Live 2025 Co-Located Conferences	San Antonio, TX	\$450	\$125	\$1,365	\$148	\$2,088	4
2025 Plain Talk About Literacy and Learning	New Orleans, LA	\$331	\$120	\$1,009	\$148	\$1,608	4

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