

Mr. Roberto J. Alonso, Board Member

SUBJECT: DIRECTIVE TO EXPLORE STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP WITH SOUTH FLORIDA AUTISM CHARTER SCHOOL FOR FACILITY EXPANSION AT THE FORMER COUNTRY CLUB MIDDLE SCHOOL SITE

COMMITTEE: FACILITIES AND CONSTRUCTION

LINK TO STRATEGIC PLAN: RELEVANT, RIGOROUS & INNOVATIVE ACADEMICS

Schools dedicated to serving students with autism, such as South Florida Autism Charter School (SFACS), a high-performing charter school under the management of Miami-Dade County Public Schools, play a critical role in serving students with autism across our community. In fact, during the most recent legislative session, the State of Florida appropriated dedicated funding to support SFACS's expansion efforts to better meet growing demand for specialized services. At the same time, Country Club Middle School, located in the heart of our district, was recently repurposed as a District office due to declining enrollment, yet there are several students with autism who can be served in that area.

The availability of the County Club Middle School facility presents a strategic opportunity to support a vulnerable and growing student population with specialized needs; maximize use of existing district assets; strengthen the district's ongoing relationship with organizations that serve these students; and generate new, recurring revenue for the district. The facility can be repurposed in a different way that brings value to the community, aligns with our strategic priorities, and ensures continued use of district assets.

This item therefore is presented for the Board's consideration to direct the Superintendent to explore the feasibility of establishing a District school dedicated to serving students with autism at the County Club Middle School facility; if deemed appropriate, partner with entities who already provide these services, such as SFACS, in establishing this school, and analyze the feasibility of this potential partnership, including potential enrollment, programming needs, space utilization, and necessary facility upgrades, and leveraging the recent state funding; if the new use of the facility is deemed feasible, evaluate the financial implications for the District of establishing such a school, including potential revenue through leasing and management fees; and present findings and recommendations to the Board at the October 2025 Facilities and Construction Committee Meeting.

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

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

That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, direct the Superintendent to:

1. Explore the feasibility of establishing a District school dedicated to serving students with autism at the County Club Middle School facility;
2. If deemed appropriate, partner with entities who already provide these services, such as SFACS, in establishing this school, and analyze the feasibility of this potential partnership with SFACS, including potential enrollment, programming needs, space utilization, and necessary facility upgrades, and leveraging the recent state funding;
3. If the new use of the facility is deemed feasible and appropriate, evaluate the financial implications for the District of establishing such a school, including potential revenue through leasing and management fees; and
4. Present findings and recommendations to the Board at the October 2025 Facilities and Construction Committee Meeting;