Office of School Board Members
Board Meeting of July 22, 2026

July 16, 2026

Mr. Danny Espino, Board Member

CO-SPONSORS: **Ms. Maria Teresa Rojas, Chair**
Ms. Monica Colucci, Vice Chair
Mr. Roberto J. Alonso
Dr. Dorothy Bendross-Mindingall
Ms. Mary Blanco

ADDED

SUBJECT: **REVIEW OF SCHOOL BOARD POLICIES AND ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURES GOVERNING PROCUREMENT EVALUATION COMMITTEES AND RECOMMENDATION PROCESSES**

COMMITTEE: **FISCAL ACCOUNTABILITY & GOVERNMENT RELATIONS**

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

The School Board of Miami-Dade County is committed to the responsible stewardship of public resources and to maintaining the highest standards of transparency, accountability, and operational excellence in all District business practices. As the governing body of one of the nation's largest school districts, the Board has a fiduciary responsibility to ensure that procurement decisions are made through processes that are fair, competitive, objective, and capable of withstanding public scrutiny.

The Board recognizes that procurement recommendations have historically been developed in accordance with applicable School Board Policies, administrative procedures, and legal requirements. Nothing contained in this item is intended to suggest that District staff, evaluation committee members, or prior procurement recommendations failed to comply with existing requirements. Rather, recent procurement discussions have demonstrated that even when established procedures are properly followed, questions regarding the transparency, consistency, and objectivity of the evaluation process may nevertheless affect stakeholder confidence in the outcome, as evidenced by item E-143 *(Award Invitation to Negotiate No. ITN - 24-034-CM* - District Healthcare Benefits Program) during the June 17, 2026, School Board meeting. Here, a vote based on the selection criteria following oral presentations, without the benefit of objective and/or quantifiable criteria, resulted in an outcome that could not be clearly aligned with School Board prerogatives. As the ultimate decision-makers on most procurement matters, it is imperative that the School Board, as well as the public, understand the metrics by and through which recommendations are made. As such, as part of its ongoing governance responsibilities, the School Board believes it is appropriate to periodically review its procurement policies, administrative procedures, and reporting practices to determine whether additional safeguards, greater transparency, and enhanced Board reporting would further strengthen public trust in the District's procurement process.

The District's Strategic Plan recognizes that strong governance and organizational excellence are essential to achieving positive outcomes for students, employees, and the community. Public confidence in the District's procurement process depends not only on the integrity of the evaluation process itself, but also upon the public's ability to understand how procurement recommendations are reached and the Board's ability to evaluate the basis for those recommendations independently. Transparency alone is not sufficient; procurement processes must also be perceived by

Revised
H-4

stakeholders as objective, consistent, and capable of producing outcomes that inspire confidence in the fairness of the process.

While Procurement Management Services administers competitive solicitations and evaluation committees provide technical expertise in reviewing proposals, the School Board retains the statutory responsibility for approving many of the District's most significant contractual obligations. Accordingly, procurement recommendations presented for Board approval should be supported by a transparent and well-documented record demonstrating how the established evaluation criteria were applied, how competing proposals were evaluated, and why the recommended proposer represents the best value and most advantageous outcome for the District**.** The Board's responsibility extends beyond determining whether procurement procedures were followed. As the District's governing body, it must also ensure that existing policies continue to reflect best practices in procurement governance and provide sufficient transparency to maintain stakeholder confidence in procurement recommendations presented to the Board for approval.

The School Board believes that every procurement recommendation presented for approval should provide sufficient information to enable Board Members to confidently exercise their fiduciary responsibilities and allow a reasonable member of the public to understand the basis for the recommended award without requiring specialized knowledge of procurement procedures. Strengthening transparency in the evaluation process is intended to support informed decision-making, reinforce public confidence, improve consistency across procurements, and promote continued excellence in the District's governance practices.

This review of School Board Policies and Administrative Procedures is intended to be prospective rather than retrospective. It is designed to identify opportunities for continuous improvement, strengthen governance practices, and enhance public confidence in future procurement recommendations without revisiting or questioning the validity of previous procurement decisions. This item also seeks to establish a governance framework for procurement recommendations presented to the School Board by directing the Superintendent to develop proposed policy, administrative procedure, and reporting enhancements that strengthen transparency, objectivity, consistency, accountability, and the Board's oversight of procurement recommendations.

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Accordingly, this item proposes that the Superintendent return to the Board with recommendations that include proposed revisions to School Board Policies (including but not limited to, Board Policy 6320 -Purchasing, Purchase Approval and Competitive Bidding Process Requirements, Responsibilities and any other active procurement-related board policies) and administrative procedures promoting the use of objective, measurable, and clearly defined evaluation criteria whenever practical; improvements to ensure consistency in evaluation methodologies, scoring practices, weighting of evaluation criteria, and committee documentation; guidance on the appropriate use of subjective evaluation criteria, including whether written justification should accompany such evaluations; clarification of evaluation committee procedures, including committee composition, scoring methodologies, ranking procedures, consensus-building, and voting requirements where appropriate; a standardized format for presenting procurement recommendations that clearly identifies evaluation criteria, assigned weights, proposer scores, committee rankings, and the basis for the recommended award; recommendations regarding the information that should accompany procurement agenda items to provide Board Members with a clear understanding of the evaluation process and rationale supporting each recommendation; and any additional recommendations that further strengthen transparency, accountability, public confidence, operational excellence, and the School Board's ability to exercise effective governance over the approval of District contracts. The Superintendent will report on proposed policies, administrative procedures, and suggested enhancements to the Fiscal Accountability and Government Relations Committee by September 2, 2026.

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

ACTION PROPOSED BY MR. DANIEL A. ESPINO:

That the School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, directs the Superintendent of Schools to:

1. Develop proposed policy, administrative procedure, and reporting enhancements, where necessary and appropriate, that strengthen transparency, objectivity, consistency, accountability, and the Board's oversight of procurement recommendations, including, but not limited to, the procurement of health insurance and related benefits;
2. Return to the School Board with the following
   a. Proposed revisions to School Board Policies (including but not limited to, Board Policy 6320 -Purchasing, Purchase Approval and Competitive Bidding Process Requirements and any other active procurement-related board policies) and administrative procedures that promote the use of objective, measurable, and clearly defined evaluation criteria whenever practical; Revised
   b. Recommendations to improve consistency in evaluation methodologies, scoring practices, weighting of evaluation criteria, and committee documentation;
   c. Recommendations regarding the appropriate use of subjective evaluation criteria and whether written justification should accompany subjective evaluations;
   d. Recommendations to clarify evaluation committee procedures, including committee composition, scoring methodologies, ranking procedures, consensus-building, and any specific voting requirements, where appropriate;
   e. A standardized format for presenting procurement recommendations to the School Board that clearly identifies the evaluation criteria, assigned weights, proposer scores, committee rankings, and a concise explanation of the basis for the recommended award;
   f. Recommendations regarding the information that should accompany procurement agenda items to provide Board Members with a clear understanding of the evaluation process and the rationale supporting each recommendation;
   g. Any additional recommendations that further strengthen transparency, accountability, public confidence, operational excellence, and the School Board's ability to exercise effective governance over the approval of District contracts; and
3. Report proposed policies, administrative procedures, and suggested enhancements to the Fiscal Accountability and Government Relations Committee by September 2, 2026.