

Ms. Maria Teresa Rojas, Chairman

**SUBJECT: MATTERS RELATED TO THE COMPREHENSIVE
INTEGRITY-BASED SELECTION AND APPOINTMENT
PROCESS FOR THE NEXT SUPERINTENDENT OF
SCHOOLS – INTERVIEWS OF THE TWO FINALISTS AND
SELECTION OF THE NEXT SUPERINTENDENT OF
SCHOOLS**

**LINK TO STRATEGIC
PLAN: HIGHLY EFFECTIVE TEACHERS, LEADERS, & STAFF**

Pursuant to the timeline established, discussed, and approved by the Board at its regular meeting on May 13, 2026, under Agenda Item G-3, and reaffirmed at its Special Board meeting on June 24, 2026, under Agenda Item SP-1, each Board member was afforded the opportunity to identify and submit to the Office of General Counsel the names of up to three applicants to be considered for advancement to the semi-finalist stage of the selection process. Consistent with the Board-approved timeline, all submissions were required to be received by the Office of General Counsel no later than Monday, July 6, 2026.

Following this submission period, the Office of General Counsel compiled and reviewed the recommendations submitted by the Board members in accordance with the Board's established process. The Office of General Counsel prepared and transmitted a memorandum to the Board on July 7, 2026, identifying the six applicants who advanced as semi-finalist candidates based on the recommendations received from the Board members.

In accordance with the Board's established timeline, on July 21, 2026, a Special Board meeting was held to, among other things, receive the Community Engagement Report compiled by the School Board's Facilitator from the information gathered and provided by School Board members, and review the six (6) candidates' background checks, vetting information, and minimum qualifications as approved by the School Board. As provided by Agenda Item SP-1, at the July 21, 2026, Special Board meeting, the Board also determined that the following two semi-finalists would be advanced to the Board as finalists to be interviewed and considered for the position of Superintendent of Schools at the Special School Board meeting scheduled for July 29, 2026:

- Dr. Ernie Lozano
- Mr. Rafael Villalobos

In addition, at the July 21, 2026, Special Board Meeting, the Board decided that Board members would submit to the Office of the General Counsel their proposed interview questions by 5:00p.m., Friday, July 24, 2026, and that questions submitted by Board members would be compiled and transmitted to the Board by the General Counsel by Monday, July 27, 2026. Further, pursuant to Board Policy 0165(K), *Public Meetings*, the Board authorized Board member Luisa Santos to appear by electronic means at the July 29, 2026, Special School Board Meeting.

**REVISED
SP-1**

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

**ACTION PROPOSED BY CHAIR
MS. MARIA TERESA ROJAS:**

That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida take appropriate action on the following matters:

1. ~~Conduct public interviews during the July 29, 2026 Special School Board Meeting of the two finalists for the position of Superintendent of Schools; The selection of Mr. Rafael Villalobos as the next Superintendent of Schools.~~

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2. Upon completion of the interviews of the two finalists, vote on and select from the two finalists, the next Superintendent of Schools; and

3. ~~Authorize the School Board Chair to schedule a Special School Board meeting to provide direction to the Board Chair on the following: negotiate the terms and condition of the employment for the next Superintendent, utilizing the same or substantially similar process previously used to negotiate superintendent contracts and to return a proposed draft of the contract including any unresolved terms to the Board for consideration and potential approval at a Special Board meeting to be called on August 19th, 2026 at 11 am~~

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- ~~a. the terms and conditions of the Employment Agreement for the next Superintendent of Schools;~~
- ~~b. the timeline for the negotiation and finalization of the Employment Agreement; and~~
- ~~c. the transition process for the next Superintendent of Schools, and any matters related thereto.~~
4. authorize Board Member Luisa Santos to appear by electronic means at the Wednesday, August 19, 2026, Special School Board Meeting at 11 am.