Office of School Board Members
Board Meeting of October 14, 2026

October 14, 2026

Mr. Daniel Espino, Board Member

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

REVISED AT DAIS BY BOARD ACTION

SUBJECT: **STRENGTHENING EXTERNAL RESOURCES AND PARTNERSHIPS TO SUPPORT M-DCPS SCHOOLS AND STUDENTS**

COMMITTEE: **PERSONNEL, STUDENT, SCHOOL & COMMUNITY SUPPORT**

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

Miami-Dade County Public Schools (M-DCPS) has a longstanding history of working with businesses, philanthropic organizations, community partners, alumni, governmental entities, and institutions of higher education to support students and schools. These relationships bring financial and in-kind resources into the school system while also providing internships, scholarships, volunteer support, professional expertise, and other educational opportunities.

This work is consistent with the M-DCPS 2026–2031 Strategic Plan, which recognizes that educating students extends beyond the traditional boundaries of the school system and identifies outside organizations and institutions as important components of a broader learning ecosystem. Over time, M-DCPS has developed significant infrastructure to cultivate these relationships through District and school-based efforts, as well as the M-DCPS Foundation, a direct-support organization.

Resource development has also historically been a measurable component of this work. Previous District planning documents included performance measures related to monetary and in-kind contributions generated through community partners, reflecting an established recognition that external relationships can provide meaningful resources in support of the District's educational mission.

More recently, the Board has recognized the importance of responsible revenue-generating partnerships. In November 2025, the Board approved Item H-3, "Review and Amendment of Board Policy to Ensure Proper Procurement and Oversight of Income-Generating Contract," proffered by Board Member Roberto J. Alonso and co-sponsored by the rest of the Board members. The item recognized the value of partnerships that generate additional revenue while emphasizing appropriate oversight, transparency, and accountability.

Building upon this history, and as M-DCPS responds to changing enrollment patterns and the financial pressures that can accompany them, it is appropriate to take a broader look at the District's approach to external resource development. The question is not whether M-DCPS has partnerships or resource-development efforts, but whether the District can build on the work already underway to more effectively measure, coordinate, and strengthen the resources generated through those relationships.

Revised[2]
H-10

A clearer understanding of what external resources M-DCPS currently generates would provide an important starting point. Establishing a baseline, reviewing relevant historical performance, and understanding the capacity devoted to this work would allow the District to better measure results and determine whether additional strategies or investments could produce a meaningful return.

There may also be opportunities to make greater use of relationships that already exist throughout M-DCPS. Businesses, alumni, foundations, and community organizations may interact with individual schools or District programs in different ways. A more coordinated approach could help deepen those relationships, identify additional opportunities for support, and better connect outside resources with educational needs.

This work also presents an important equity consideration. Schools serve communities with differing levels of fundraising capacity and access to business, alumni, and philanthropic networks. While schools should continue to cultivate relationships within their own communities, broader District and Foundation efforts can help expand access to external resources and opportunities for schools that may have less capacity to generate them independently.

Any effort to strengthen resource development must also operate within the legal and policy framework governing a public school system. Reviewing applicable Florida law, State Board of Education rules, and School Board policies can help identify the authority and flexibility currently available to M-DCPS, any limitations that must be considered, and whether changes could responsibly support additional opportunities.

External resources are not a substitute for the District's responsibility to adequately support its schools. They can, however, supplement those resources and expand opportunities available to students. By better understanding current performance, existing capacity, and opportunities for future growth, M-DCPS can determine whether a more coordinated approach to external resource development can provide additional value for students and schools while maintaining appropriate fiscal controls, transparency, and accountability.

This item directs the Superintendent to review M-DCPS's current approach to external resource development and identify opportunities to strengthen the financial, in-kind, and educational support generated through the District's external relationships. The review should, to the extent practicable, establish a baseline of current external resources and relevant historical performance; assess how existing District and Foundation capacity is coordinated and measured; and identify opportunities to strengthen resource development while expanding access to external resources among schools with differing fundraising and partnership capacity. In consultation with the General Counsel, the Superintendent shall also review applicable Florida Statutes, State Board of Education rules, School Board policies, and other relevant requirements to identify existing authority, limitations, or potential policy changes affecting the District's ability to develop, accept, manage, and expand external resources. Any strategies requiring additional investment or capacity should identify anticipated costs, measurable outcomes, and potential return on investment while maintaining appropriate fiscal, legal, ethical, procurement, and accountability safeguards. The Superintendent shall provide the Board with a report, including findings and recommendations to strengthen M-DCPS's external resource development strategy, at the January 2027 Personnel, Student, School and Community Support Committee meeting.

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

ACTION PROPOSED BY
MR. DANIEL A. ESPINO:

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

1. review M-DCPS's current approach to external resource development and identify opportunities to strengthen the financial, in-kind, and educational support generated through the District's external relationships;

2. The review should establish, to the extent practicable, a baseline of current external resources and relevant historical performance; assess how existing District and Foundation capacity is coordinated and measured; and identify opportunities to strengthen resource development while expanding access to external resources among schools with differing fundraising and partnership capacity;

3. The Superintendent, in consultation with the School General Counsel, shall also review applicable Florida Statutes, State Board of Education rules, School Board policies, and other relevant requirements to identify existing authority, limitations, or potential policy changes affecting the District's ability to develop, accept, manage, and expand external resources;

4. In exploring the feasibility of this measure, any strategies requiring additional investment or capacity should include anticipated costs, measurable outcomes, and potential return on investment while maintaining appropriate fiscal, legal, ethical, procurement, and accountability safeguards; and

5. The Superintendent shall provide the Board with a report by January 2027, including findings and recommendations to strengthen M-DCPS's external resource development strategy during the Personnel, Student, School and Community Support Committee meeting.