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

October 14, 2026

Ms. Luisa Santos, Board Member

CO-SPONSORS: **Ms. Maria Teresa Rojas, Chair**
Ms. Monica Colucci, Vice Chair
Mr. Roberto Alonso
Dr. Dorothy Bendross-Mindingall } REVISED AT DAIS BY BOARD ACTION
Ms. Mary Blanco
Mr. Danny Espino
Mr. Joseph S. Geller } REVISED AT DAIS BY BOARD ACTION

SUBJECT: **WASTE-COST REALIGNMENT AND EFFICIENCY REVIEW UPDATE**

COMMITTEE: **FISCAL ACCOUNTABILITY & GOVERNMENT RELATIONS**

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

As Miami-Dade County Public Schools (M-DCPS), we have demonstrated our commitment to fiscal responsibility and sustainable business practices by seeking innovative ways to increase efficiency. With operations spanning 332 active school sites, implementing lean practices is essential to cost avoidance while maintaining high-quality services.[1]

At the School Board Meeting of December 17, 2025, the School Board unanimously approved Item H-11, *Waste-Cost Realignment and Efficiency Review*. Following its passage, the Office of Resource Efficiency and Optimization implemented waste reduction plans across 22 school sites, generating $78,395.28 in documented cost savings between March 2026 and July 2026.[2] These realized savings demonstrate the tangible impact of operational right-sizing across a large school district. Furthermore, in accordance with the rulemaking changes under School Board Policy 7460, initiated by Item H-11, these captured cost savings will be reinvested into a dedicated fund for future resource efficiency initiatives, if deemed financially feasible.[3]

As efficiency becomes an increasingly urgent priority, it is in the best interest of M-DCPS to explore methods for reducing waste generation, minimizing hauling costs, and increasing efficiencies in waste management at school sites. Efforts to streamline waste operations are directly aligned with Objective 4 of the *2026-2031 Strategic Plan*, adopted at the School Board Meeting of May 11, 2026: “Adjust the organization’s facilities footprint and prioritize school

[1] Office of the Superintendent. (2026, September 28). Response to Referral: SR#TBA (2026) (Referral No. 4908). Miami-Dade County Public Schools.
[2] Office of Resource Efficiency and Optimization (2026). *Resource Efficiency and Optimization Progress Update July 2026*. Unpublished report. Miami-Dade County Public Schools.
[3] Miami-Dade County Public Schools. (2011, May 11). *PO7460 conservation of natural and material resources.* https://go.neola.com/sbmd-fl/policy/policy-manual/po7460

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H-11

investment."[4] Reduction in waste hauling costs offers a direct opportunity to achieve meaningful cost avoidance.

By expanding waste reduction efforts districtwide, M-DCPS may continue to maximize operational dollars, directly supporting facilities right-sizing efforts and future investments, and engage students and staff in environmental responsibility.

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

ACTION PROPOSED BY MS. LUISA SANTOS:

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

1. Provide a progress report to the School Board detailing the cost savings achieved at the school-site, Region, and District level through the optimized waste hauling schedules implemented since March 2026;
2. Provide an update on school-site reduction plans that have effectively reduced waste;
3. Provide an updated, comprehensive analysis of waste hauling schedules and service levels at all locations to identify opportunities to reduce or consolidate hauling frequencies and adjust service levels accordingly to realize operational savings;
4. Provide a status report on the allocation and reinvestment of realized savings, pursuant to School Board Policy 7460;
5. Explore the feasibility of creating a volunteer network to support schools that choose to adopt new waste diversion practices (single stream recycling, composting, donations, etc.); and
6. Present findings at the Fiscal Accountability and Government Relations Committee of February 2027.

[4] Miami-Dade County Public Schools. (2025, June). Strategic Plan 2026-2031. https://pdfs.dadeschools.net/Bdarch/2026/Bd051326/agenda/Strat-Plan-Landscape_2026-2031.pdf