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

October 14, 2026

Ms. Maria Teresa Rojas, Chair

CO-SPONSORS: **Ms. Monica Colucci, Vice Chair**
Mr. Roberto Alonso } REVISED AT DAIS BY BOARD ACTION
Ms. Mary Blanco
Mr. Danny Espino
Mr. Joseph S. Geller } REVISED AT DAIS BY BOARD ACTION
Ms. Luisa Santos

SUBJECT: **MIAMI-DADE SCHOOL BOARD REAFFIRMATION OF ITS UNWAVERING COMMITMENT TO ETHICAL CONDUCT, INTEGRITY, TRANSPARENCY, AND HONESTY IN ALL ITS DECISIONS AND ACTIONS**

COMMITTEE: **FISCAL ACCOUNTABILITY & GOVERNMENT RELATIONS**

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

The Miami-Dade County School Board has adopted several policies, procedures, and standards that address ethical conduct, conflicts of interest, transparency, accountability, and the proper exercise of public office. These existing safeguards reflect the Board's longstanding commitment to integrity and responsible governance. School Board Policy 0124, *Standards of Ethical Conduct*, establishes the Board's commitment to achieving and maintaining the highest standards of ethical conduct. The policy further provides that the Board shall comply with all applicable ethical provisions under the Florida Constitution, Florida Statutes, Chapter 112, *Code of Ethics for Public Officers and Employees*; as well as School Board Policies 0141.1, *Conflict of Interest*, and 0141.3, *Conflicting Employment or Contractual Relationships*.

Throughout its deliberations and decision-making, the Board has demonstrated an outstanding commitment to conducting its business with professionalism, integrity, fairness, and respect for public trust. The purpose of emphasizing these principles is to reaffirm and strengthen the high ethical standards that guide the service and leadership of the Miami-Dade School Board.

School Board members occupy a position of profound public trust. They are entrusted with decisions that directly affect children, families, educators, taxpayers, and the broader community, and they exercise authority over substantial public resources. For that reason, Board Members conduct themselves according to the highest standards of ethics, integrity, transparency, and accountability. Their obligation is not simply to comply with the minimum requirements of the law or policy, but to demonstrate the judgment and character expected of individuals serving in a position of public confidence. Board Members are committed to leading with purpose, sound judgment, and a steadfast dedication to public service, ensuring that their actions, decisions, and communications strengthen confidence in Miami-Dade County Public Schools (M-DCPS) and uphold the dignity and effectiveness of its governing processes.

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The highest ethical standard is one that recognizes that public office is a responsibility, not a personal entitlement. Board Members are always willing to ask not only, “Is this action legal?” but also, “Is it right, is it fair, is it transparent, and would I be comfortable explaining it publicly?” When there is a question about whether conduct could undermine public confidence, the appropriate response should be to err on the side of transparency, disclosure, and avoidance of even the appearance of impropriety. The credibility of a school board depends not only on the decisions it makes, but on the integrity of the process by which those decisions are made.

As we move forward, it is essential that the School Board reaffirms its unwavering commitment to ethical conduct, integrity, transparency, and honesty in all its decisions and actions. This renewed commitment presents the Board with an opportunity to embrace a shared purpose, renewed hope, and optimism, guided and united by a common vision for our students and schools. With every decision, we can reaffirm our commitment of what matters most, the success, well-being, and most importantly a bright future of every student, and the continued strength and promise of our schools.

This 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, reaffirms its unwavering commitment to ethical conduct, integrity, transparency, and honesty in all its decisions and actions. This renewed commitment presents the Board with an opportunity to embrace a shared purpose, renewed hope, and optimism, guided and united by a common vision for M-DCPS students, the workforce, and schools. With every decision, the Board has an opportunity to reaffirm its assurance of what matters most: the success, well-being, and most importantly a bright future of every student, while ensuring that our schools remain strong, effective, and positioned to serve students and families well into the future.