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

October 14, 2026

Ms. Monica Colucci, Vice Chair

CO-SPONSORS:
Ms. Maria Teresa Rojas, 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
Ms. Luisa Santos

SUBJECT: **OVERSIGHT OF VACANT FACILITIES**

COMMITTEE: **FISCAL ACCOUNTABILITY & GOVERNMENT RELATIONS**

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

Miami-Dade County Public Schools (M-DCPS) continues to experience changes in student enrollment that are impacting the utilization of schools throughout the District. School Board Policy 5120, *Student School Assignment and Attendance Boundary Committee*, provides the framework for reviewing attendance areas as changes in student enrollment occur. Under the policy, the Superintendent is responsible for proposing attendance areas with the assistance of the Office of School Leadership and Performance, the Office of School Facilities, the Attendance Boundary Committee (ABC).

Policy 5120 recognizes several factors that may warrant changes to school attendance areas, including the ability to conduct a viable educational program due to declining enrollment and the use of available student stations within contiguous areas. These considerations have become increasingly important as the District responds to changing enrollment patterns and evaluates how best to utilize its schools and resources.
In May 2026, the School Board adopted the District's 2026-2031 Strategic Plan, which recognizes a changing environment marked by fewer school-age children in the community and shifting enrollment patterns.

Objective 4 of the Strategic Plan specifically calls for M-DCPS to adjust its facilities footprint and increase the utilization of student stations at active schools from a baseline of 66 percent to 80 percent district-wide by June 2031. The plan recognizes that these efforts may include school re-envisioning, consolidation, co-location, repurposing, attendance boundary adjustments, and other changes intended to make more effective use of District facilities and resources.

These efforts are already reflected in changes to the District's school footprint. For the 2026-2027 school year, M-DCPS approved several school consolidations and related attendance boundary changes. As the District continues implementing its five-year Strategic Plan, additional changes to school configurations and facility use may be considered in future years, potentially resulting in additional school facilities no longer being used for regular instructional purposes.

The School Board has previously taken steps to strengthen oversight of Board-owned property. In August 2022, Agenda Item H-9, proffered by Dr. Steve Gallon III, called for greater oversight and transparency regarding Board-owned real estate. In September 2025, Agenda Item H-6, proffered by Board Member Roberto J. Alonso, built upon that work by addressing the planning,

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use, reuse, purposing, and repurposing of Board-owned property, including facilities that may no longer serve instructional needs.

While these prior Board actions address the broader use and future of Board-owned property, an important period remains between the time a school facility becomes vacant and the time a future use is identified and implemented. School Board Policy 7410, *Maintenance*, requires a continuous program of inspection, maintenance, and rehabilitation for the preservation of all school buildings and equipment and further directs the Superintendent to establish procedures for the ongoing maintenance of the District's physical plant and the expeditious repair of those conditions which threaten the safety of the occupants or the integrity of District facilities. As the District potentially manages a greater number of vacant school facilities, it is important to ensure that these responsibilities continue to be carried out while also providing the School Board with consistent information regarding the status, condition, fiscal impact, and anticipated timeline for each vacant property.

Given the number of school consolidations occurring within a single academic year, and the potential for additional facilities to become vacant in future years, the District must also be prepared to protect these properties from vandalism, unauthorized access, deterioration, and other risks that may arise when a school campus is no longer regularly occupied.

As the District may be required to manage a greater number of vacant school facilities in the coming years, it is important not only to ensure that these properties are properly maintained and secured, but also that there is a clear and timely process for evaluating their future use. Establishing a consistent reporting process will help ensure that the School Board remains informed regarding each facility's status, maintenance, fiscal impact, anticipated future use, and timeline for implementation. Providing this information will promote greater transparency and allow the School Board to effectively monitor how these public assets are being managed while longer-term plans are developed and implemented.

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

ACTION PROPOSED BY
MS. MONICA COLUCCI:

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

1. Review existing School Board policies, procedures, and District practices governing school facilities that become vacant following a school repurposing or consolidation and identify any gaps related to oversight, reporting, or future-use planning;

2. Review existing procedures for securing, monitoring, maintaining, and protecting school facilities while they remain vacant and determine whether additional measures are necessary given the number of facilities that may become vacant as a result of current and future school consolidations;

3. Establish a reasonable timeline and process for evaluating potential future uses of school facilities that become vacant following a closure or consolidation, including opportunities for District reuse, repurposing, leasing, redevelopment, or other appropriate uses, so that a future use may be identified in a timely manner;

4. Establish a process for keeping the School Board informed regarding vacant school facilities, including the date each facility became vacant, its current status, any interim use, anticipated future use, projected timeline for implementation, and the fiscal impact associated with maintaining and securing the facility while it remains vacant; and

5. Present the findings, proposed process, and any recommended policy or procedural changes to the Fiscal Accountability & Government Relations Committee at its December 9, 2026, meeting.