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

SUBJECT: **RESTORATION OR EXPANSION OF HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT ATHLETICS COVERAGE THROUGH WLRN, IN COORDINATION WITH EXISTING MIAMI-DADE COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS (M-DCPS) STREAMING CAPABILITIES**

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

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

WLRN-TV, the television station licensed to the School Board of Miami-Dade County, has a longstanding history of providing locally produced educational, civic, cultural, and community programming to the residents of Miami-Dade County. Among its local programming initiatives was the television coverage of Miami-Dade County high school athletics, including high school football. Historical records indicate that, by the mid-1980s, WLRN was regularly presenting high school sports telecasts as part of its locally produced programming. Historical accounts of the station further identify high school sports telecasts as an established component of WLRN's local programming during this period. The broadcasts continued into the early 1990s before the high school sports telecast program was discontinued in 1993.

The broadcast of Miami-Dade County Public Schools (M-DCPS) high school interscholastic games could once again serve an important community-relations and student-engagement function by providing families, alumni, educators, and members of the broader community with an opportunity to participate in and celebrate the accomplishments of M-DCPS student-athletes. Televised games would increase the visibility of students and their schools, strengthen school pride and community connections, and allow parents and extended family members who may be unable to attend games in person to share in these important student experiences.

Miami-Dade County Public Schools has utilized a digital platform for providing the community with access to local high school athletics. The continued public interest in making M-DCPS athletic competitions accessible beyond the physical stadium provides an important foundation upon which the District could further expand its sports media and community engagement efforts.

The availability of high school athletics events through digital streaming represents a significant advancement from the traditional broadcast model, allowing students, parents, relatives, alumni, college coaches, and community members to view games from virtually any location. At the same time, there is an opportunity to complement the District's existing digital coverage through the broader reach and established public-service mission of WLRN. Given WLRN's historical connection to Miami-Dade County Public Schools and its former role in televising local high school athletics, the station could provide an additional platform for presenting selected M-DCPS athletic events to the community.

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A coordinated approach involving M-DCPS athletics and WLRN could create a more comprehensive media presence for District athletics while avoiding duplication of existing services. Under School Board Policy 0172, the Board has adopted the *Editorial Integrity Policy and Advisory Mechanisms for WLRN Public Radio and Television.* The Policy, originally adopted in 2006, sets forth the current process for establishing, revising, and implementing programming and projects for WLRN-TV. This Policy has been utilized to ensure that WLRN-TV continues to provide independent, objective, and community-based television programming of high quality, and that the process for establishing its programming meets statutory and regulatory requirements and restrictions.

Depending upon operational, technical, contractual, and Board Policy considerations, selected high-profile games could potentially be distributed through one or more platforms, including digital streaming, WLRN's broadcast television service, and online video platforms. Such coverage would increase the visibility of M-DCPS student-athletes and their schools, strengthen relationships with parents and alumni, provide greater opportunities for community participation, and create additional exposure for students who may be pursuing collegiate athletic opportunities.

The restoration or expansion of high school athletics coverage through WLRN, in coordination with existing M-DCPS streaming capabilities, would therefore represent an opportunity to connect the District's historical broadcasting role with contemporary digital media. Such an initiative could preserve and modernize an important part of M-DCPS's broadcasting tradition while providing families and the broader Miami-Dade community with expanded access to the achievements of the District's student-athletes. In this respect, expanded high school sports coverage can serve as more than entertainment; it can function as a public-facing platform through which M-DCPS celebrate its students and communicate the accomplishments and activities taking place throughout the District.

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, direct the Superintendent of Schools to evaluate opportunities, as appropriate and feasible, to restore coverage of high school student athletics through WLRN, as well as opportunities to expand the coverage and live streaming of high school student athletics through Miami-Dade County Public Schools' existing streaming capabilities; and provide a report to the School Board outlining the findings of such evaluation, including potential opportunities, partnerships, resource requirements, contractual obligations, and recommendations for possible implementation, at the Personnel, Student, School & Community Support Committee meeting scheduled for December 9, 2026.