Office of the Superintendent
Board Meeting of November 18, 2026

November 4, 2026

Office of District Operations
Mr. Luis E. Diaz, Chief Operating Officer

SUBJECT:	**REQUEST AUTHORIZATION FOR THE SUPERINTENDENT TO ENTER INTO CONTRACTUAL AGREEMENTS TO LEASE FACILITIES FOR THE 2026-2027 GRADUATION EXERCISES AND TO PAY FOR ANCILLARY SERVICES ASSOCIATED WITH GRADUATION**
COMMITTEE:	**PERSONNEL, STUDENT, SCHOOL, AND COMMUNITY SUPPORT**
ALIGNMENT:	**OPERATIONAL IMPACT**
INDICATOR: *(If Strategic Impact)*	**N/A**
DECISION MATRIX: *(If Strategic Impact)*	**N/A**

DECISION MATRIX JUSTIFICATION:
(If Strategic Impact)

N/A

Authorization is requested for the Superintendent to enter into contractual agreements to lease facilities for the 2026-2027 graduation exercises. Commencement exercises are scheduled from May 24, 2027 **–** June 3, 2027, for all senior high schools and on July 27, 2027, for the technical colleges' ceremony. This request includes a waiver of the School Board's standard termination, indemnification, and hold harmless clauses for graduation-related events. Additionally, authorization is requested to pay for ancillary services associated with graduation, e.g., streaming services, stagehands, electricians, ushers, parking and parking attendants, the rental of audio-visual equipment, plants, chairs, pianos, crowd control dividers, and caps and gowns rentals for District and Region administrators who will attend graduations as platform guests. The projected cost for these graduation exercises and ancillary costs is estimated to be up to $1,350,000.00. These contracts impact 69 high school graduations and one technical college graduation across the district, which breaks down to an estimated cost of $67.50 per student. Our District averages approximately 20,000 graduates annually.

Planning for the 2026-2027 graduation exercises began in the Summer of 2026. Site selection is based on the capacity to accommodate each school's graduating class size. The use of school sites for graduation exercises will also be considered where appropriate.

Proposed venues for the 2026-2027 graduation rehearsals and exercises for the sixty-nine (69) senior high schools and the technical college are as follows:

- Adrienne Arsht Center for the Performing Arts (Knight Concert Hall and Ziff Ballet Opera House)
- Barry University (Gibson Center Gymnasium and Shepard & Ruth K. Broad Center for the Performing Arts Auditorium)
- Dennis C. Moss Cultural Arts Center
- Fair Expo Center – FUCHS Pavilion and Fair Grounds
- Florida International University (Biscayne Bay Campus – Roz and Cal Kovens Conference Center, and South Campus Ocean Bank Convocation Center)
- Florida Memorial University (Gymnasium and Lou Rawls Center for the Performing Arts)
- Jungle Island
- loanDepot Park
- Miami Beach Convention Center
- Miami Dade College North Campus (Criminal Justice Center and William and Joan Lehman Theater); and Miami Dade College Kendall Campus (Auditorium and Gymnasium)
- Watsco Center at the University of Miami

Personnel in the Office of Risk and Benefits Management will review all contracts to include indemnification and insurance provisions.

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

1. Enter into contractual agreements with the following sites for graduation rehearsals and exercises, May 24, 2027, through June 3, 2027, and July 27, 2027:

    - Adrienne Arsht Center for the Performing Arts (Knight Concert Hall and Ziff Ballet Opera House)
    - Barry University (Gibson Center Gymnasium and Shepard & Ruth K. Broad Center for the Performing Arts Auditorium)
    - Dennis C. Moss Cultural Arts Center
    - Fair Expo Center – FUCHS Pavilion and Fair Grounds
    - Florida International University (Biscayne Bay Campus – Roz and Cal Kovens Conference Center, and South Campus Ocean Bank Convocation Center)
    - Florida Memorial University (Gymnasium and Lou Rawls Center for the Performing Arts)
    - Jungle Island
    - loanDepot Park
    - Miami Beach Convention Center
    - Miami Dade College North Campus (Criminal Justice Center and William and Joan Lehman Theater); and Miami Dade College Kendall Campus (Auditorium and Gymnasium)
    - Watsco Center at the University of Miami

2. Enter into agreements permitting waiver of the School Board's traditional termination clause, indemnification, and hold harmless clauses with the graduation sites listed above; and

3. Authorize payment for charges incurred to lease the facilities and to pay for ancillary services, stagehands, electricians, ushers, parking and parking attendants, the rental of audio-visual equipment, plants, chairs, pianos, crowd control dividers, and the rental of caps and gowns for District and Region administrators who will attend graduations as platform guests, at a total cost not to exceed $1,350,000.00.