

Dr. Steve Gallon III, Vice Chair

SUBJECT: SECURITY AND SAFETY PROVISIONS, PROTOCOLS, AND PROCEDURES FOR SCHOOL BOARD RELATED EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES

COMMITTEE: PERSONNEL, STUDENT, SCHOOL & COMMUNITY SUPPORT

LINK TO STRATEGIC PLAN: SAFE, HEALTHY, & SUPPORTIVE LEARNING ENVIRONMENTS

Miami-Dade County Public Schools (M-DCPS) is committed to ensuring the safety and security of its schools, employees, School Board, community members, and most important, its students. This has been and must always remain a priority of the School Board and the District. This commitment has been shared by the Fraternal Order of Police (FOP) and its members employed in the Miami-Dade County Public Schools Police Department.

The issue of school safety and security was elevated following the tragedy that took place at Marjory Stoneman Douglas Senior High School on February 14, 2018. Consequently, the district, state, and nation increased proactivity in the provision of attention, resources, and strategies to improve school security and student safety. On March 9, 2018, then Governor, Rick Scott signed into law the Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School Public Safety Act (MSDHPSA), SB 7026. This law, among other initiatives, provided a \$400 million investment to keep students safe in school and enhance the provision of supports to address mental health. One critical component was the provision of safe-school officers at schools and educational facilities around the state.

The provision of these additional resources represented a significant elevation of the discourse around safety and security at schools and educational settings, as well as a tremendous enhancement to improving school safety and security at schools in Miami-Dade County and around the state. In furtherance of this objective, the School Board previously approved the following:

- February 21, 2018, Agenda Item H-1 proffered by Chairwoman Perla Tabares Hantman, authorizing the Superintendent to review protocol and procedures, and policies associated with responding to critical incidents at school sites and report back to the School Board by March 21, 2018; modified the Board's Legislative Priorities at both the State and Federal levels to include the urgent request for funds to enhance school and student safety; and requested that the County and local municipalities collaborate with M-DCPS to provide an ongoing additional law enforcement presence around local school facilities, as possible;

**Good Cause
H-17**

- November 20, 2018, Agenda Item H-3 Revised (Review of Disciplinary, Security and Emergency Procedures at High School Athletic Events), proffered by School Board Member Dr. Steve Gallon III, directed the Superintendent to review policies, procedures, guidelines, curriculum and training for students, employees and other attendees at athletic events;
- November 20, 2018, Agenda Item H-6 Revised (Develop or Update the District's Comprehensive Safety and Security Plan Including All New Initiatives and Strategies Being Implemented in Miami-Dade County Public Schools (M-DCPS)), proffered by School Board Member Maria Teresa Rojas, authorized the Superintendent to update the Comprehensive Safety and Security Plan;
- November 20, 2018, Agenda Item H-8 Revised (Addressing Public Safety Measures at School Sponsored Events), proffered by School Board Member Dr. Dorothy Bendross-Mindingall, authorized the Superintendent to review guidelines and practices concerning spectators and crowd-management at district-sponsored sporting events and provide annual updates;
- December 19, 2018, Agenda Item H-9 Revised, proffered by School Board Member Maria Teresa Rojas authorized the Superintendent of Schools to establish a Safety and Security Task Force to review the findings of the initial report of the Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School Public Safety Commission; present findings, recommendations and possible solutions identified by the Task Force to the Board by April 15, 2019, and schedule a Board Workshop to review the Task Force Report by May 15, 2019;
- July 19, 2017, Superintendent sent memo in response to an inquiry by Board Member Maria Teresa Rojas (Enhanced Safety and Security Measures at Board Meetings), addressing procedures and practices concerning public meetings "to ensure the safety and security of employees, students, visitors, and all stakeholders who participate in the democratic process during School Board meetings;" and
- June 19, 2019, Agenda Item H-14, proffered by Chairwoman Perla Tabares Hantman, authorized the Superintendent to work with the City of Hialeah Gardens to implement the City of Hialeah Gardens Pilot School Safety Program, as appropriate, for the 2019-2020 school year. This pilot program was fully funded by the State of Florida.

Recently, issues around school safety and security, as well as ensuring the safety of school board members, superintendents, and district officials at school board meetings and related school board and district events have been widely discussed at the local, state, and national level. Such issues should be addressed at the local level among local school boards and municipalities. M-DCPS, as the nation's fourth largest district and one of the few that boasts its own division of sworn police officers, has been firmly poised and prepared to provide appropriate safety and security measures for its schools, employees, and most important, its students. As a continuation of this work, and in response to matters that may pose present and/or future threats, a continuous review, assessment, and enhancement to safety and security provisions, procedures, and protocols are prudent. Thus, this item calls for such a review, assessment, and where recommended, required, or requested enhancements that ensure and strengthen the safety and security of employees, school board members, and most important, students at schools and school board and related events and activities.

This item seeks to direct the Superintendent to review, assess, and enhance where recommended, required, and/or requested, safety and security provisions and protocols at school board meetings and school board related events and activities; establish as determined appropriate, within existing resources, among existing school police staff, and in accordance with appropriate contractual and other legal requirements, a security detail to provide specialized security and support at school board events and related activities, which shall include but not be limited to enhanced security, transport, threat assessments and response as recommended, required, and/or requested by the Superintendent, Chief of School Police, and/or School Board Member; meet with individual school board members to review and discuss issues, and solicit and receive feedback regarding concerns and/or provision of enhancements for safety, security, transport, and threat assessments and response at school board events and related activities, as may be recommended, required, and/or requested; and develop and provide procedures and guidelines for access and activation of the security detail established for specialized security and support at school board events and related activities, which shall include but not be limited to enhanced security, transport, and threat assessments and response as recommended, required, and/or requested no later than the School Board Meeting of January 2022.

Good Cause exists to vary from the established agenda because significant health safety concerns requiring immediate attention have been raised at recent school-sponsored events, including an incident that occurred at an event attended by two School Board Members, requiring activities to be temporarily paused until determined safe to resume. This item has been approved by the School Board Attorney as to form and legal sufficiency.

**ACTION PROPOSED BY
DR. STEVE GALLON III:**

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

1. to review, assess, and enhance where recommended, required, and/or requested, safety and security provisions and protocols at school board meetings and school board related events and activities;
2. establish as determined appropriate, within existing resources, among existing school police staff, and in accordance with appropriate contractual and other legal requirements, a security detail to provide specialized security and support at school board events and related activities, which shall include but not be limited to enhanced security, transport, threat assessments and response as recommended, required, and/or requested by the Superintendent, Chief of School Police, and/or School Board Members;

3. meet with individual school board members to review and discuss issues, and solicit and receive feedback regarding concerns and/or provision of enhancements for safety, security, transport, and threat assessments and response at school board events and related activities, as may be recommended, required, and/or requested; and
4. develop and provide procedures and guidelines for access and activation of the security detail established for specialized security and support at school board events and related activities, which shall include but not be limited to enhanced security, transport, and threat assessments and response as recommended, required, and/or requested no later than the School Board Meeting of January 2022.