

Co-Sponsors: Ms. Perla Tabares Hantman, Chair } A
Dr. Dorothy Bendross-Mindingall } D
Ms. Maria Teresa Rojas } E

COMMITTEE: FISCAL ACCOUNTABILITY & GOVERNMENT RELATIONS

The Miami-Dade County Public Schools (M-DCPS) is committed to policies and practices that promote and support deliberate, transparent, and efficient processes for public participation and access to School Board Meetings and related information. These processes are consistent and pursuant to the provisions outlined in Chapters 119 and 286 of the Florida Statutes, as well as School Board Policies 0155, 8310, and 9120. They address professional, transparent, and efficient access to public records, as well as laws and policies that support the public's "right of access to public meetings and records."

Consistent with Florida's history of Open Government, the School Board has consistently supported the public's right of access to School Board Meetings, workshops and committee meetings, as well as related school and district-related events. In doing so, along with its legal and statutory obligation, the School Board has a duty to continue to review, define, and revise its practices, policies, and procedures regarding access to public records and participation at meetings. In addition to complying with provisions outlined in Chapters 119 and 286 of the Florida Statutes, the School Board *"shall inform the public on matters regarding District policies, finances, programs, personnel, and operations..."*

Presently, School Board Policy 0155, School Board Committees provides a platform and venue for Board members to “*formulate, review, analyze, and deliberate policy recommendations prior to consideration by the full Board,*” and “consider agenda items or matters being presented by staff to the full Board for consideration,” as well as “other issues within the organizational area which the committee chair believes should be addressed.” These critical actions reflect a vital part of the discourse, debate, and deliberation over issues important to the public and serve as yet another pathway for public engagement and observation of the work of the school district.

In order to provide for a more transparent and efficient process for the public to both follow the work of the School Board and relevant and required M-DCPS staff to be readily available to provide advisement, School Board Policy 0155 specifically identifies the five (5) committees established with respect to *“organizational and area specific strategies outlined in the District Strategic Blueprint...”* and cites *“considered matters related”* and to be discussed in each committee. It can reasonably be expected by members of the public, as well as School Board Members and M-DCPS staff that such *“related matters”* as outlined in policy will be discussed during the respective Committee Meeting, irrespective of a particular proffered agenda item. Not to address such agenda items and *“related matters”* in the respective Committee Meeting as defined in School Board Policy 0155 is not only inconsistent with the intent and spirit of the School Board Committee structure as explicitly defined in School Board Policy 0155 and on the M-DCPS website, but restricts the public’s full and transparent knowledge of what and when *“related matters”* are to be discussed and limits and/or binds relevant and required staff’s availability when such *“related matters”* are being discussed.

The five (5) committees and *“considered related matters”* as explicitly reflected in School Board Policy 0155 are as follows:

A. Academics, Evaluation, & Technology

Develops policy and considers matters related to curriculum, instruction, data analysis, testing, exceptional student education, Title I, adult/alternative education, evaluation, research, technology, student progression, instructional materials, professional development, schools of choice including charter schools and magnet/themes, student services, grants and related procurement and rulemaking. The District-wide Teacher of the Year may serve as a non-voting ex-officio member.

B. Innovation, Government Relations & Community Engagement

Develops policy and considers matters related to legislative issues, District-wide innovations, intergovernmental relations, compacts, interlocal agreements, business and community partnerships, parental involvement, community relations, communications, and related procurement and rulemaking. The District-wide Principal of the Year may serve as a non-voting ex-officio member.

C. Personnel Services & Student/School Support

Develops policy and considers matters related to supporting the delivery of educational services at the school site including transportation, attendance services and boundaries, food service, graduations, field trips, school naming, athletics, labor relations, succession management, personnel, student discipline, school police, and related procurement and rulemaking. A representative of the Coalition of Unions may serve as a nonvoting, ex-officio member.

D. Fiscal Accountability

Develops policy and considers matters related to budget, audits, treasury management, procurement, resolutions, risk management, property/equipment and goods, services contracts, and related rulemaking.

E. Facilities Construction

Develops policy and considers matters related to real estate, recycling, growth management, construction, maintenance, green energy, Office of Economic Opportunity, 21st Century Bond Program, Five (5) Year Capital Plan, capital budget, parking leases, and related procurement and rulemaking. A representative from the community may be appointed by the Chair of the Board to serve as a non-voting ex-officio member.

Additionally, pursuant to Policy 0155, the above stated School Board Committees are “[subject to change or modification as deemed necessary by the Chair.” In accordance with this provision, on November 20, 2020, the Chair promulgated *School Board Committee Realignment and Membership* for 2020-2021, wherein the above-stated Committees were restructured and consolidated into the following four Committees: (1) Fiscal Accountability & Government Relations; (2) Academics, Innovation, Evaluation & Technology; (3) Personnel, Student, School & Community Support; and (4) Facilities Construction.

This item seeks to uphold the spirit and intent of certain elements of the School Board Committee structure and direct the Superintendent to initiate rulemaking procedures to amend School Board Policy 0155 to require that all Agenda items be presented at the applicable School Board Committee Meeting under which the agenda item relates, as currently defined in School Board Policy 0155, while also maintaining the authority of the Chair to realign, restructure and define the subject and jurisdiction of School Board Committees.

This item has been approved by the School Board Attorney’s Office 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 initiate rulemaking procedures to amend School Board Policy 0155, to require that all agenda items be presented at the applicable School Board Committee Meeting under which the agenda item relates, as currently defined in School Board Policy 0155, while also maintaining the authority of the Chair to realign, restructure and define the subject and jurisdiction of School Board Committees.