

Ms. Maria Teresa Rojas, Board Member

**SUBJECT: MIAMI-DADE COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS (M-DCPS)  
ENERGY COST CONTAINMENT PROGRAM**

**COMMITTEE: FACILITIES AND CONSTRUCTION**

**LINK TO STRATEGIC  
BLUEPRINT: EFFECTIVE AND SUSTAINABLE BUSINESS PRACTICES**

During the last few years, Miami-Dade County Public Schools has successfully undertaken sustainability initiatives through cost effective, environmentally safe measures as a way to control operational costs. The District is making considerable investments in energy conservation measures through the GOB Program which ultimately will have a positive effect on the environment and further reduce operating costs in the long-term. Additionally, there are certain aspects of the economy which are driven by a renewed interest in overall energy efficient construction and the development of 21<sup>st</sup> century schools and buildings. Furthermore, the provisions under HB 7069 signed by the Governor will have an adverse financial impact on the capital outlay budget and finding any future savings will be a challenge for the Superintendent and the School Board.

All of us have a stake in reducing levels of energy use and consumption, but it is certainly easier to assess our own impact when examining energy habits and attitudes. Miami-Dade County Public Schools is at the forefront of implementing policies and programs which have positively impacted energy performance in our schools and buildings. The District's Office of School Facilities has been a leader in conservation and cost containment, indoor air quality, recycling, and environmental management.

This agenda item requests that the Superintendent review and recalibrate the current energy cost containment practices in Miami-Dade County Public Schools and provide a report with recommendations to the Board which may include:

- a) evaluation of strategies and/or objectives already included or which may need to be added to the District's Strategic Blueprint;
- b) assessment of water use efficiency and management;
- c) installation of solar panels to reduce energy costs;
- d) review of the District's plan for recycling to ensure compliance;
- e) review of food service kitchen equipment, mostly natural gas, and solar hot water systems;
- f) expansion of new efficiency lighting systems and controls;
- g) identification of possible local, state, federal, and foundation grant funding opportunities;
- h) consideration of cost-effective energy efficiency technologies that may provide a savings to the District; and
- i) identification of any Board policies or procedures which may need to be amended or changed.

This item has been reviewed and approved by the School Board Attorney's office as to form and legal sufficiency.

**ACTION PROPOSED BY**

**MS. MARIA TERESA ROJAS:** That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, request the Superintendent to:

1. review the current energy management practices in Miami-Dade County Public Schools;
2. proffer any additional initiatives and/or appropriate Board policy revisions;
3. determine if any of the proposed recommendations can be implemented within existing budgets or if additional funds may be necessary; and
4. provide a report to the Board with recommendations and potential cost avoidance opportunities by November 15, 2017.