



VILLAGE OF PINECREST  
Education Advisory Council

## MEETING MINUTES

April 21 2026, 9:15 a.m.

Pinecrest Community Center / Pine Room

5855 Southwest 111 Street

Pinecrest, FL 33156

### I. Welcome and Introductions

The meeting was called to order by Vice Mayor Jerry Greenberg at 9:18 a.m. Attendees of the meeting introduced themselves.

### II. Presentations

Village Manager, Yocelyn Galiano delivered a presentation to introduce a Bike Bus Concept with the recommendation that the village of Pinecrest and the Pinecrest schools enter an exploratory partnership to determine whether the bike bus concept could be applied. A handout introduces the program, and a brief proposal for a pilot. Please see handout for reference

### III. Reports/Updates

#### a. Principals' & PTA/ PTSA Updates:

1. Palmetto Middle School (Mrs. Valero, Adalia Hedges, Christopher Blanco) provides a recap of construction projects, and mentions recent events, accolades and competitions. Notably mentioning upcoming Earth Day activities including a fashion show, and extracurricular activities.
2. MPSH (Principal Dobbs & Andrea Gonzalez) give a brief update on recent accolades including wins and advancements for sports. Principal Dobbs mentions end of school year celebrations and events, and comments that MPSH enrollment numbers for next year are reaching capacity. Andrea Gonzalez echoes principal Dobbs' notes, and mentions the success of the recent annual auction, staff appreciation, and end of year luncheons.
3. Howard Drive Elementary updates provided by Principal Friginals of Pinecrest Elementary. Friginals gives an overview of recent events, accolades and competition outcomes for HDE.
4. Pinecrest Elementary (Mrs. Friginals) gives an update on various accolades for Pinecrest Elementary including recycling projects, literary events, upcoming field trips, and teacher appreciation week. Friginals mentions track renovation start date is set to begin when students are in recess for the summer.
5. True North (Monica Suarez) gives the group a brief update on recent events and accomplishments at True North. Suarez provides enrollment numbers of true north, with 328 students currently enrolled.

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6. Palmetto Elementary (Mr. Torres & Kari Vidal) list recent activities happening at Palmetto elementary including music accomplishments, math excellence, sporting and club accomplishments, and recent success on school tours. Principal Torres confirms additional Pre-k classroom for Palmetto elementary for 2026-2027 school year.
- b. Region Report: Ana Othon gives an update of end of year events at the region and gives a brief report on summer session seats. Othon mentions seats are very limited this year, with openings only occurring in Prek-1<sup>st</sup> grade, 3<sup>rd</sup> grade and senior high.
- c. District Report: Khristal Gooding thanks the group for hosting the School of Hope and Charter School meeting for Palmetto Bay and Pinecrest area. Gooding recaps some of the topics discussed at the meeting and applauds the group for their investment in the topic. Gooding updates the group on status of the current budget for the district. Gooding reminds the group that the district features stories for ed-ventures and encourages the group to submit ideas for stories. Stories and ideas can be submitted to: [stories@dadeschools.net](mailto:stories@dadeschools.net)
- d. Legislative: Nancy Lawther and Khristal Gooding provide updates on current legislative session. Bills currently moving to passed: Cursive instruction in public schools, teaching mentorship, and sprouts program expansion. Lawther gives a breakdown of legislative bills and the voucher programs, and the group discusses. See attached handouts Good Cause H-12 & Good Cause H-2.
- e. Lacey Bray, committee Liasson departs meeting at 10:20 a.m.  
EAC meeting continues with: Pinecrest Parks updates, School Board update, and Village Council report.

**IV. New Business: None**

**V. Announcements: None**

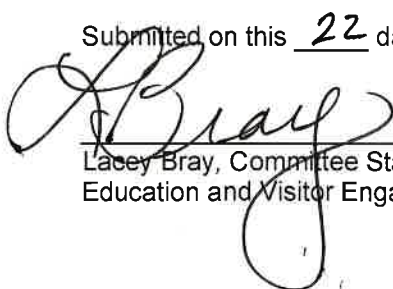
**VI. Schedule of Future Meetings**

May 19, 2026 – Community Center/Pine Room

**X. Adjournment:**

The meeting was adjourned at 10:45 AM (provided by Danny Alberty, Assistant Director, Pinecrest Parks & Recreation)

Submitted on this 22 day of April, 2026, by:



Lacey Bray, Committee Staff Liaison  
Education and Visitor Engagement Specialist





### **PROGRAM PURPOSE & OVERVIEW**

PK-3 Sprouts is a district-operated, tuition-supported early learning program that expands access to high-quality preschool for three-year-old children. The program provides a full-day instructional experience that emphasizes school readiness, early literacy and numeracy development, social-emotional learning, and age-appropriate, play-based instruction. By serving children prior to VPK eligibility, PK-3 Sprouts strengthens the district's early learning continuum. PK-3 Sprouts supports successful transitions into VPK while promoting kindergarten readiness.

### **PILOT SCHOOL SITES**

In 2026-27, the PK-3 Sprouts program will be implemented at selected school sites identified through enrollment data, facility capacity, and community early learning needs. The following schools have been identified as initial PK-3 Sprouts sites:

- *William Lehman Elementary School (South Region)*
- *Howard Drive Elementary School (South Region)*
- *E.W.F. Stirrup Elementary School (Central Region)*
- *Silver Bluff Elementary School (Central Region)*
- *iPreparatory Academy (Central Region)*
- *Greynolds Park Elementary School (North Region)*
- *Miami Beach South Pointe Elementary School (North Region)*

### **PROGRAM HOURS**

The PK-3 Sprouts instructional day operates Monday through Friday from 7:30 a.m. to 1:50 p.m. An extended-day option is available from 1:50 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. through the school's on-site aftercare program, operated by the principal or a designated partner.

### **TUITION & FEES**

Tuition for PK-3 Sprouts is set at \$40 per day, totaling \$7,200 annually for 180 instructional days. Families pay tuition in monthly installments of \$720 over 10 months, providing predictable and manageable payment options. A \$150 non-refundable registration fee is due at enrollment.

### **STAFFING STRUCTURE & LEARNING ENVIRONMENT**

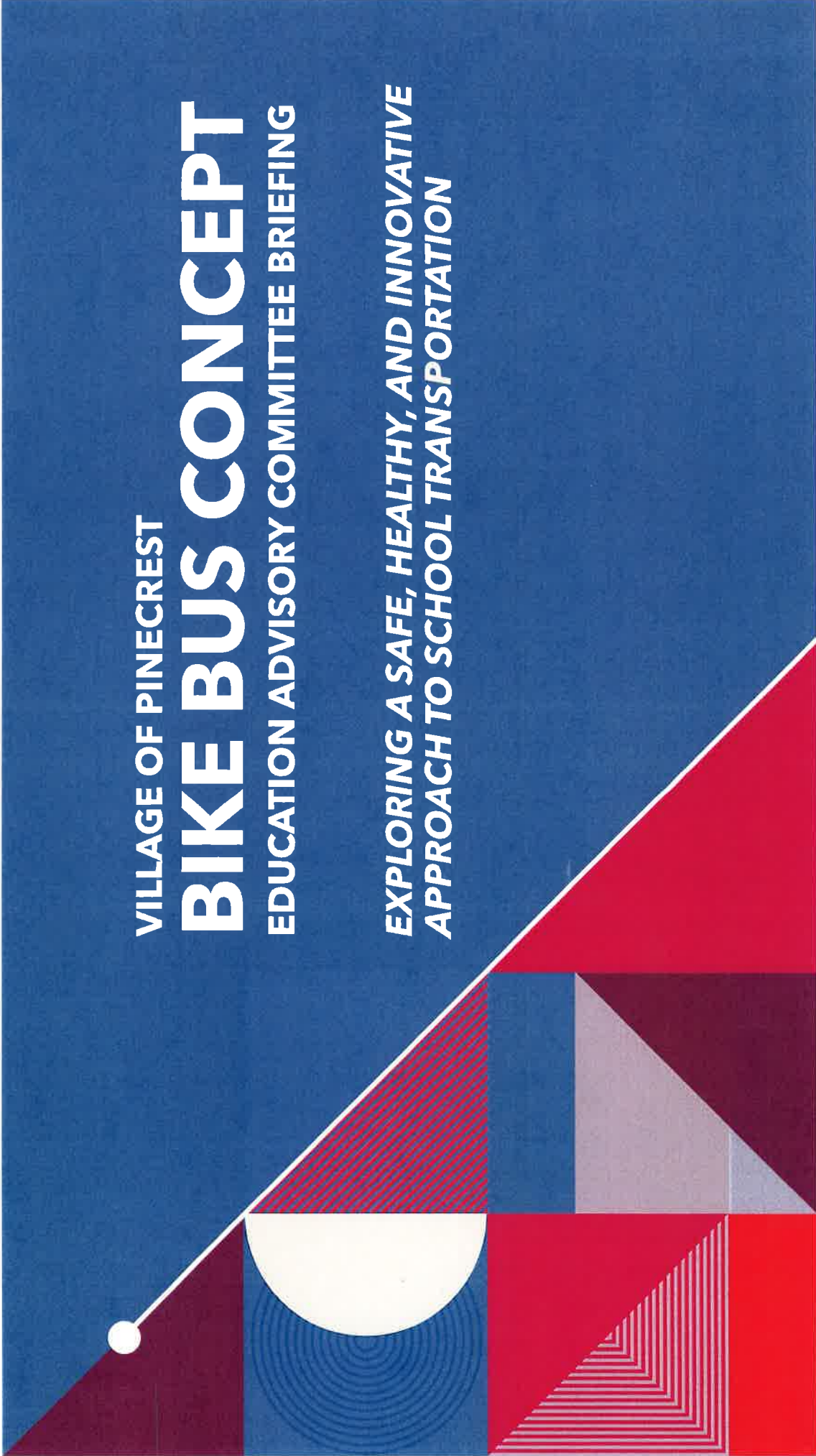
PK-3 Sprouts classrooms are staffed with two adults per class, maintaining a 2:17 adult-to-student ratio appropriate for three-year-old learners. This staffing structure supports high-quality instruction, child safety, and consistent supervision throughout the day. The model reinforces developmentally appropriate practices while ensuring children receive individualized attention and support.

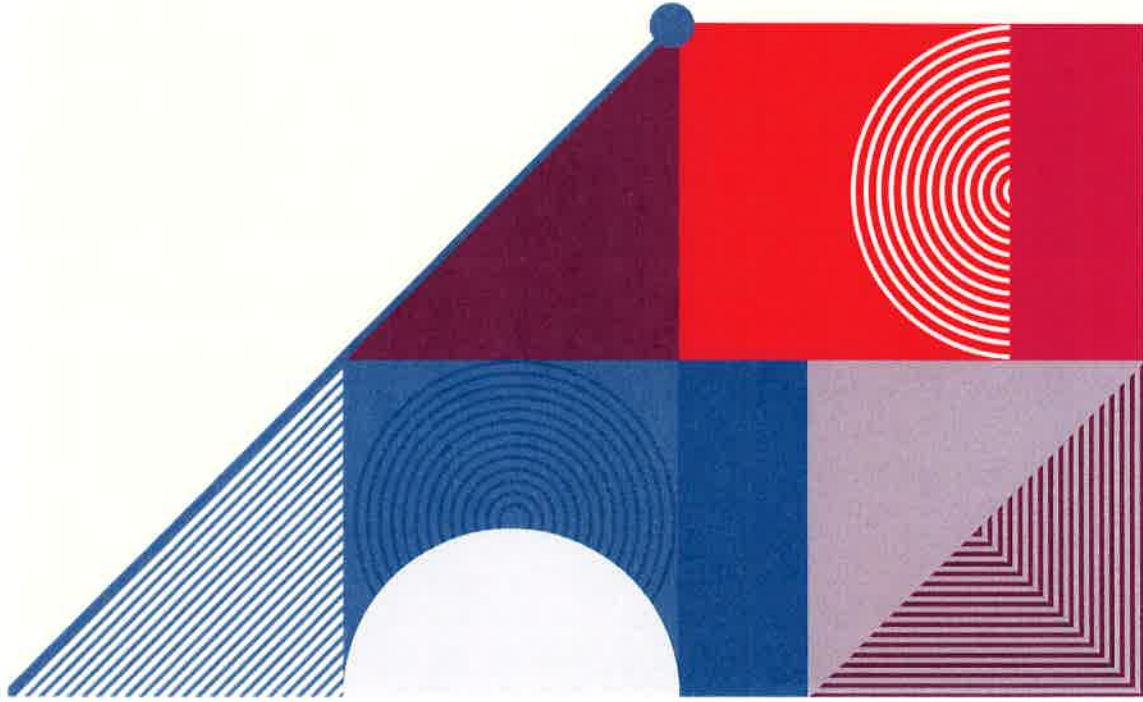
VILLAGE OF PINECREST

# BIKE BUS CONCEPT

EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE BRIEFING

EXPLORING A SAFE, HEALTHY, AND INNOVATIVE  
APPROACH TO SCHOOL TRANSPORTATION





# PURPOSE OF TODAY'S DISCUSSION

- Introduce a Bike Bus concept for Pinecrest schools
- Share why the Village is exploring this idea now
- Gather feedback, concerns, and interest from principals
- Identify potential pilot opportunities

***Important: This is an early-stage concept only—no approvals have been made.***

# WHAT IS BIKE BUS?

- GROUP OF STUDENTS BICYCLING TO SCHOOL TOGETHER
- TRAVELS ALONG A PLANNED ROUTE WITH DESIGNATED STOPS
- OPERATES ON A SET SCHEDULE
- SUPERVISED BY ADULT VOLUNTEERS

→ THINK OF IT AS A "SCHOOL BUS ON BIKES"



# WHY ARE WE EXPLORING THIS?

- School Traffic Conditions: Congestion during drop-off and dismissal
- Queuing into neighborhood streets
- Conflicts between vehicles, pedestrians, and cyclists

**Key Observation: Many trips are short-distance and potentially bikeable**



# SAFETY & PLANNING CONCEPTS

- Village recently adopted a Vision Zero resolution
- Beginning a year-long Action Plan development process
- Exploring early, practical safety strategies

**Bike Bus programs are supported by organizations like the Safe Routes to School National Partnership**



# POTENTIAL BENEFITS

## For Schools & Students:

- Reduced drop-off congestion
- Increased student visibility and safety
- Promotes physical activity and readiness to learn

## For the Community:

- Fewer cars near school zones
- Stronger neighborhood connections
- Supports sustainability goals

# WHAT THIS COULD LOOK LIKE (PILOT)

- 1-2 interested schools
- 1-2 routes per school
- Operates 1-2 days per week initially
- Parent/volunteer-supported
- Small, controlled rollout

 **Designed to start simple and scale if successful**



# WHAT THIS IS NOT

- Not a mandate or requirement
- Not replacing existing drop-off systems
- Not a fully designed or funded program
- Not something that proceeds without school input

→ **This is a collaborative exploration**



# WHAT WE NEED FROM YOU

**At this stage, we're looking for:**

- Your level of interest
- Insight into student travel patterns
- Any site-specific concerns
- Willingness to connect us with PTA/PTO leadership

# POTENTIAL NEXT STEPS

## If there is interest:

- Identify pilot school(s)
- Conduct informal route review
- Engage parents and PTA/PTO groups
- Develop a small pilot framework
- Return with a refined proposal (if warranted)



**👉 Is this something your school community would be interested in exploring further?**



Dr. Steve Gallon III, Board Member

**SUBJECT: APPROVE RESOLUTION 26-023 CALLING FOR A REFERENDUM RENEWAL TO BE HELD ON NOVEMBER 3, 2026, SEEKING APPROVAL FROM THE VOTERS OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY FOR THE SCHOOL BOARD TO LEVY AN AD VALOREM ASSESSMENT TO RENEW AND CONTINUE IMPROVING COMPENSATION FOR TEACHERS AND INSTRUCTIONAL PERSONNEL, AND IMPROVE STUDENT SAFETY AND SECURITY FOR PUBLIC SCHOOLS, INCLUDING PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOLS, WITH OVERSIGHT BY A CITIZEN ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

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

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

Over the last decade, our school district has seen remarkable success. Miami-Dade County Public Schools (M-DCPS) remains one of the highest-performing urban school systems in the nation, with a graduation rate that now exceeds 95 percent.

In 2018, the School Board recognized the need to identify supplemental revenue sources to support instructional personnel and school safety in light of the challenges presented by Miami-Dade's high cost of living, underfunded statutory mandates, and other issues impacting school funding and teacher salaries in M-DCPS. As a result, on November 6, 2018, the voters of Miami-Dade were asked to invest in our community's future by investing in M-DCPS. Proposition #362, the *Secure Our Future Referendum (SOFR)*, was approved and subsequently renewed by voters on November 8, 2022.

The current 2022 referendum funds continue to be vital, with 88% supporting teacher salaries—ensuring they exceed the national average—and 12% enhancing school safety by providing an officer at every school site. M-DCPS has been able to maintain an average salary for teachers that is higher than our neighboring districts, all of which also benefit from operational ad valorem millage levies within their counties. However, these voter-approved funds are set to expire on June 30, 2027, necessitating a renewal to maintain these critical investments in our workforce and student security. When the current referendum sunsets, the District to fiscally support “supplemented” compensation for teachers will also sunset, as will the ability to meet the requirement for a law enforcement officer to be on school premises from bell to bell, without impact to educational programs.

At the School Board meeting of February 11, 2026, the Board approved Agenda Item H-13, *Accomplishments of the Referendum Supporting Improved Teacher Compensation and School Safety and Related Recommendations*, proffered by School Board Member Dr. Steve Gallon III and unanimously co-sponsored by School Board Chair Ms. Mari Tere Rojas, School Board

**Good Cause  
H-12**

Vice Chair Ms. Monica Colucci, and School Board Members Mr. Roberto J. Alonso, Dr. Dorothy Bendross-Mindingall, Ms. Mary Blanco, Mr. Danny Espino, Mr. Joseph S. Geller, and Ms. Luisa Santos. This agenda item requested that the School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, allow the electors of Miami-Dade County to express their continued support for teachers and their commitment to school safety through a vote on a referendum. This item also required, among other things, that the Superintendent consult with the District's bargaining groups, parent groups and community groups about funding levels, review the expenditure of funds from the 2022 Referendum assessment of a 1.0 levy of ad valorem taxes to determine if the funds have been utilized for the purposes approved by the voters, analyze the levels and impact of the referendum funding, and make recommendations concerning the renewal of the referendum for the November 3, 2026, general election.

Pursuant to School Board Policy 9143, the Secure Our Future Advisory Committee (SOFAC), comprised of bargaining groups, parents, community stakeholders and business leaders, serves in an advisory and oversight capacity to review, monitor, and make recommendations regarding the use of referendum proceeds approved by voters in 2018 and 2022. In accordance with Item H-13, and Policy 9143, a SOFAC meeting was held on March 30, 2026, and the SOFAC approved the Committee's most recent Annual Reports which monitor the use and distribution of proceeds generated from the voter-approved referendum supporting teacher compensation and school safety. The SOFAC reports confirm that referendum revenues were properly utilized in accordance with the stated goals of the 2022 Referendum and continue to represent a critical funding source supporting the District's ability to maintain competitive compensation for instructional personnel and to sustain the levels of school safety personnel required under Florida law. The SOFAC reports further indicate that referendum funds provide Referendum Retirement Accruing Supplements (RRAS) to instructional personnel and safety personnel. These supplements are provided above base salary and are eligible for Florida Retirement System credit. The additional compensation has played a significant role in strengthening recruitment and retention of teachers and improving the District's overall average teacher salary. In reviewing these reports, two primary funding considerations emerge. First, referendum funds continue to play a critical role in supplementing teacher compensation and maintaining competitive salary levels relative to other districts. Second, the cost of maintaining required levels of school safety personnel represents a substantial and ongoing financial obligation, which is currently sustained through referendum funding.

It is estimated that the Board may be able to raise \$585 million annually, at a cost of less than \$316 per year, or \$0.86 per day, to the typical homeowner with a levy of a one (1) mill of ad valorem taxes. The renewal will continue to include charter schools in the shared proceeds based on their proportional share of student enrollment, calculated on an unweighted basis, to ensure the continuation of current compensation as well as enhancing both safety and security.

Approval of this Resolution will place the renewal of the one (1) mill ad valorem tax on November 3, 2026, general election ballot. This renewal is essential to continue the progress made in teacher compensation and to ensure the ongoing safety of all public-school students, including those in charter schools, under the continued oversight of a Citizen Advisory Committee. District staff participated in a roundtable discussion with representatives from several charter school operators to collaboratively draft the proposed ballot language. Pursuant to § 1011.73, Florida Statutes, the renewal, if approved, would be for a period of four (4) years, from July 1, 2027, to June 30, 2031, or until changed by another millage election. Approved by The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida on this 22nd day of April 2026.

This item has been reviewed and approved by the Office of the General Counsel as to form and legal sufficiency. This item does not appear on the published Agenda. There exists good cause to vary from the published Agenda because time is of the essence in order to meet applicable election deadlines.

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

- That the School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida,
1. Approve Resolution 26-023, calling for a referendum renewal to be held on November 3, 2026, for the purpose of seeking approval from voters of Miami-Dade County for the School Board to levy an ad valorem assessment of one (1) mill to continue improving compensation for teachers and instructional personnel, and improve student safety and security for Miami-Dade County Public Schools, including public charter schools, with oversight by a citizen advisory committee; and
  2. In accordance with § 1011.73(2), Florida Statutes, direct the Miami-Dade County Commission to place the referendum on the November 3, 2026, general election ballot as authorized by Resolution 26-023; and
  3. Authorize the Superintendent to use District resources to educate the community on the purpose and benefits of the proposed referendum.

Office of School Board Members  
Board Meeting of April 22, 2026

April 20, 2026

Ms. Maria Teresa Rojas, Chair

**SUBJECT:                   MATTERS RELATED TO THE COMPREHENSIVE INTEGRITY-BASED SELECTION AND APPOINTMENT PROCESS FOR THE NEXT SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS DISCUSSED AT THE SCHEDULED SCHOOL BOARD WORKSHOP TUESDAY, APRIL 14, 2026**

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

**LINK TO STRATEGIC PLAN:                       HIGHLY EFFECTIVE TEACHERS, LEADERS, & STAFF**

At the School Board meeting of March 11, 2026, following the discussion of Agenda Item H-1, the Board approved convening a workshop to address the comprehensive selection process for the next Superintendent of Miami-Dade County Public Schools (M-DCPS). The workshop was conducted on April 14, 2026, as scheduled, and during the workshop the Board took formal votes and/or reached consensus on several proposed actions that would be formalized at its upcoming regular meeting of April 22, 2026. The Board recognizes the importance of establishing an integrity-based process that is intended to select and appoint the most qualified candidate as the next Superintendent of Schools. The Board remains committed to engaging in meaningful and respectful dialogue to establish a process that is ethical, transparent, and consistently focused on promoting safety, security, and the academic success of the students it serves.

The selection of a new Superintendent is among the most consequential responsibilities entrusted to the School Board, pursuant to Article IX, Section 5, of the Florida State Constitution, State Statute 1001.50, and School Board Policy 0132. The Board, after our stakeholders have been heard, holds the executive power and responsibility for selecting the next Superintendent of Schools.

This good cause agenda item reflects the decisions discussed and acted upon during the workshop. The Board is now presented with these actions to ensure appropriate implementation as it proceeds in an expeditious and deliberate manner.

This item does not appear on the published Agenda. There exists good cause to vary from the published Agenda in order to properly and expeditiously approve those proposed actions that were generally agreed upon by the Board at the workshop held on April 14, 2026.

**Good Cause  
H-2**

This agenda item has been 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, approve the following actions which were discussed and approved for the Board's consideration at a regular meeting associated with the comprehensive integrity-based selection process for the next Miami-Dade County Public Schools (M-DCPS) Superintendent of Schools:

1. develop and implement an internal comprehensive selection process for the next M-DCPS Superintendent of Schools coordinated by the General Counsel in collaboration with the Chief Human Capital Officer, from April 23, 2026, through August 13, 2026, or as soon thereafter as can be facilitated, inclusive of any necessary modifications;
2. direct the General Counsel, in collaboration with the Chief Human Capital Officer, to bring an action item with tentative dates, established goals, and coordinated actions for the implementation of the search; to the School Board for its review and consideration at its May 13, 2026, regular meeting;
3. target, as a goal, the naming of the next Superintendent by the opening of the 2026-2027 school year (August 13, 2026), or as soon thereafter as can be facilitated;
4. direct the establishment of a Superintendent Selection Search website for the public to review relevant documents, policies, and Board actions concerning the Superintendent search process, and to provide a mechanism for the public to submit written comments regarding those qualities the public deems most appropriate for the next Superintendent, with the website to be generated as soon as possible;
5. authorize a preliminary search budget not to exceed \$50,000, and if additional funds are needed, direct the General Counsel to return to the Board with an action agenda item;
6. reaffirm the scheduling of a Special School Board meeting Wednesday, April 29, 2026, at 1:00 pm to discuss and approve the job description and the leadership attributes for the next Superintendent of Schools;

7. request that the Chief Human Capital Officer submit to the Board, through the Office of the General Counsel, for the Special Board meeting scheduled for April 29, 2026, a draft copy of the job description, including occupational summary, examples of duties and responsibilities, physical requirements, minimum qualification, including those amendments discussed at the School Board workshop on April 14, 2026; and a draft of leadership attributes for the Board's consideration.
8. schedule town hall meetings in the North, Central, and South Regions in May and/or June 2026, to seek applicable and general input from the Miami-Dade County community regarding the search process for the next Superintendent of Schools;
9. request the Chief Auditor to schedule a dedicated time at the next scheduled Audit and Budget Advisory Committee (ABAC), for a discussion to be led by the Chair's appointee to the ABAC seeking input from the members regarding the overall characteristics they would like to see with the next Superintendent
10. schedule meetings in May and/or June 2026, to seek appropriate input with representatives from the following groups with the understanding that Board members have ongoing opportunities to engage with constituents within their respective districts and solicit their input as the selection process for the next Superintendent proceeds:
  - a. the five labor unions and the two professional associations
  - b. the leadership council of the Miami-Dade County PTA/PTSA
  - c. the Student Government Association representing the students of Miami-Dade County Public Schools
  - d. Community-Based Organizations (CBOs) serving Miami-Dade County Public Schools
  - e. Citizens Participation Groups (CPB), as applicable and feasible; and
  - f. the business and industry associations serving Miami-Dade County