

Dr. Steve Gallon III, Board Member

SUBJECT: 2018 HURRICANE SEASON

COMMITTEE: PERSONNEL, STUDENT, SCHOOL & COMMUNITY SUPPORT

LINK TO STRATEGIC BLUEPRINT: INFORMED, ENGAGED, AND EMPOWERED STAKEHOLDERS

Miami-Dade County Public Schools plays a critically significant role in the pre-hurricane preparation and evacuation process in Miami-Dade County in not only the provision of facilities to serve as evacuation shelters to displaced residents seeking refuge, but in the leadership of its School Board, superintendent, district staff, principals and school administrators, food service workers, custodians, bus drivers, and numerous employees who commit time, energy, and efforts to ensuring the safety and security of those in one of the shelters. Their willingness to lead, render service, and unselfishly support those in need, are depended upon and commended by members of this community.

Last year, Miami-Dade County experienced the tremendous impact of *Hurricane Irma*, which was one of the strongest and most devastating hurricanes since *Hurricane Dean* in 2007 in terms of maximum sustained winds. It was one of the strongest and most intense to strike the United States since *Hurricane Katrina* in 2005. More critically, it was the first major hurricane to make landfall in Florida since *Hurricane Wilma* in 2005. In fact, in the U.S., state of emergencies were declared in Florida, Georgia, and North and South Carolina. As Miami-Dade County and throughout the world would witness, Hurricane Irma would cause widespread and catastrophic damage throughout its lifetime, particularly in parts of the Caribbean and the Florida Keys.

Hurricane Irma left almost 4.4 million homes and businesses in Florida without power and at least fifty people were killed in her wake in Florida alone. Of those, twelve fatalities were a result of intense heat due to lost air conditioning because of the hurricane at a Hollywood, Florida nursing home. Also, during the aftermath, Miami-Dade County had nearly 400,000 children out of school due to mandatory school closures first ordered by the Governor in anticipation of the storm and later required due to the conditions resulting thereafter.

Hurricane Irma also provided many lessons and opportunities for reflection and improvement in the provision of shelter and services across the County. In fact, according to the Minutes of the October 11, 2017 School Board Meeting which followed *Hurricane Irma*, members of the School Board and the Superintendent proffered the following items that were approved to address policies, procedures, protocols, provisions, and practices in future anticipation of the next large hurricane's landing in South Florida:

- H-1, Dr. Lawrence Feldman, *Emergency Management Policy*
- H-4, Ms. Lubby Navarro, *M-DCPS Sites as Shelters*
- H-7, Ms. Perla Tabares Hantman, *Collaboration with Municipalities for Hurricane Cleanup*
- H-10, Ms. Maria Teresa Rojas, *Compensation of (MEP) Employees for Hurricane Duties*
- H-11, Ms. Maria Teresa Rojas, *Request for 2018 State Testing Relief*
- H-12, Dr. Steve Gallon III, *Provision of School Meals for Children During School Closures*
- H-13, Ms. Lubby Navarro, *School Board Meetings During Emergency Closures*
- B-3, Ms. Lubby Navarro, *Recognition of Employees for Post-Hurricane Efforts*

- B-6, Ms. Maria Teresa Rojas, *Recognition of First Responders for Post-Hurricane Efforts*
- A-2, Superintendent, *Policy Prohibition Waiver for Post-Hurricane Charitable Fundraising*
- A-3, Superintendent, *One-Time Payment to teachers and MEP for Post Hurricane and Amendment to MEP Manual to Provide for Future Emergency Compensation*

The above items, along with additional actions and recommendations taken and/or adopted by the Superintendent, are expected to yield tremendously enhanced improvements in the role that Miami-Dade County Public Schools plays in the pre-hurricane preparation and evacuation process in Miami-Dade County.

As June 1, 2018 marked the official start of the 2018 Hurricane Season, local, state, and federal agencies have begun reviewing, revising, and communicating their respective hurricane preparedness plans to various stakeholders. Therefore, it is prudent, that in light of the lessons learned from *Hurricane Irma*, as well as the leadership actions taken by the School Board and Superintendent, that a clear, concise, yet, comprehensive update be provided.

Though several updates have been provided, this item and related action will provide a means to communicate to the broader community which depends upon the District to provide leadership, support, relief, and assistance in the event that a major hurricane lands during the 2018 hurricane season.

This item seeks to direct the Superintendent to provide an update to the Board, via a presentation, on any new, revised, and/or enhanced plans for the pre-hurricane preparation and evacuation process that resulted from post-*Hurricane Irma* Board items approved by the School Board and those which may have been developed and adopted by the Superintendent.

This item has been reviewed by the School Board Attorney for legal sufficiency.

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

That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida directs the Superintendent to provide an update to the Board, via a presentation, on any new, revised, and/or enhanced plans for the pre-hurricane preparation and evacuation process that resulted from post-*Hurricane Irma* Board items approved by the School and those which may have been developed and adopted by the Superintendent at a School Board Committee and/or Public Board Meeting by the Board Meeting of August 15, 2018.