

Dr. Lawrence S. Feldman, Board Member

SUBJECT: DISTRICT-WIDE RECYCLING PROGRAM

COMMITTEE: FACILITIES CONSTRUCTION

LINK TO STRATEGIC BLUEPRINT: EFFECTIVE AND SUSTAINABLE BUSINESS PRACTICES

School Board Policy 7460 addresses the conservation of natural and material resources and the development and implementation of both immediate and long range plans to conserve energy and recycle usable materials.

The Superintendent and District have initiated energy conservation efforts that have led to cost savings and efficiencies, while raising awareness of the importance of these efforts. In 2009, the District launched an energy conservation rebate program throughout all school sites. With measurable expected outcomes of an average 15% reduction in energy consumption, schools worked to raise awareness, meeting and often exceeding their targets. School sites that met or surpassed their targets were eligible to receive 75% of their savings, thus further incentivizing conservation efforts. The energy conservation rebate program also established the District's energy carbon footprint baseline and informed yearly GhG (Greenhouse Gas) reduction targets. Separately, the District has established the Energy Management Task Force, which are comprised of three work units: Energy Cost Containment Program, Guaranteed Energy Performance Contracting and the Energy Systems Control Station all working towards its primary objective to "establish a systematic method that plans, defines, and implements activities to determine the feasibility of energy conservation opportunities." Effective programs, like these, are informed with data and targets. Particularly for school-based programs, like the energy conservation rebate program, public awareness campaigns and clear parameters for school sites contributed greatly to the resounding success of the program which has yielded cost savings in the millions for the District and significant reductions in energy use.

Currently, efforts to recycle usable materials vary at each school site and District facility. Growing awareness of the vital importance of sustainability and environmental stewardship amongst students should be supported and encouraged through the availability of waste management awareness campaigns and access to recycling programs that are effective and accessible. An important step towards standardizing these efforts have been made through collaborations with Recycle Across America and Whole Foods Market who joined forces this past Spring to help students recycle more and recycle right by providing standardized labels to all M-DCPS K-12 schools and help the District potentially save hundreds of thousands of dollars in trash hauling fees.

An opportunity to further implement best practices and generate stronger innovative efforts to support effective recycling programs exists. This agenda item authorizes the Superintendent to assess the effectiveness of current recycling programs in terms of collections by school sites, understand obstacles and challenges faced by school sites to run successful recycling programs, study the feasibility of establishing targets and incentives similar to the Energy Rebate program and bring back recommendations to increase accountability and participation in recycling efforts at each school site and district facility by the April 25, 2018 School Board meeting.

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

ACTION PROPOSED

BY LAWRENCE S. FELDMAN:

That The School Board of Miami-Dade County authorize the Superintendent to undertake a study of the effectiveness of current recycling programs, as outlined in Policy 7460 and provide a report to the Board by the April 25, 2018 School Board meeting to include:

- a) data citing collections for all currently recycled materials (e.g. paper, aluminum) by school site and district facility generated during SY 2014-15, 15-16, 16-17, as available;
- b) obstacles and challenges faced by District and school sites to operate successful recycling programs;
- c) the feasibility of establishing targets and incentives for school sites, similar to the Energy Rebate program utilizing savings from waste-hauling fees, recycling rebates, or other opportunities; and
- d) recommendations to increase accountability and participation in recycling efforts at each school site and district facilities.