

Dr. Steve Gallon III, Board Member

Co-Sponsor: Ms. Maria Teresa Rojas, Board Member } Added

SUBJECT: REVIEW OF CUSTODIAL ALLOCATIONS

COMMITTEE: FACILITIES CONSTRUCTION

LINK TO STRATEGIC BLUEPRINT: SAFE, HEALTHY AND SUPPORTIVE LEARNING ENVIRONMENT

The Miami-Dade County Public Schools (M-DCPS) remains committed to providing educational excellence to students, staff, and stakeholders in schools and educational facilities that are maintained in a clean, safe, and orderly manner. State and district policy require that the Board provides for the “proper maintenance and upkeep of school plants so that students may attend schools that are clean and without sanitary or physical hazards.”

The maintenance and upkeep of a district’s schools and educational facilities require the allocation and deployment of critical and significant monetary and human resources. However, during some of the nation’s most fiscally challenging times, M-DCPS along with school districts across the nation faced continuing pressures to cut costs. Consequently, custodial and related work came under increasing scrutiny. While some cost-cutting may have been accomplished through genuine improvements in efficiency, there have been many efforts to save money that included cost-cutting approaches that resulted in an adverse impact to a school district’s capacity to maintain its facilities in support of student learning. In fact, according to *American School and University Magazine's 27th Annual Maintenance and Operations Cost Study*, “...decades of deferred maintenance, insufficient building upkeep procedures, and years of siphoning dollars from custodial and maintenance budgets have significantly contributed to the current condition of our nation's schools.”

During some of M-DCPS’s most fiscally challenging times, a review of how custodial resources were determined and allocated to schools was conducted. This review resulted in the strategy and structure by which school custodial allocations were determined and allocated. The adjustment factored in student enrollment as opposed to square footage in determining resource allocations.

In 2012-2013, the School Support Allocation Pool was established for schools based on each school’s FY 2010-2011 school allocations in which the “total sum allocations were compiled, converted, and reduced by 3% for several positions, including custodians.” Also, building area, program and services are assigned factors to determine the allocation. Every school is allocated a minimum of three (3) positions.

The initial budget planning for the 2017-2018 school year is underway. Reviewing and determining schools’ custodial allocations are a part of this process. As there has been no readjustment to the custodial base allocation established from 2010-2011 data, a review of the process and criteria for determining school custodial allocations should be conducted.

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

That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, directs the Superintendent to:

1. Review the current custodial allocations for schools and educational facilities; and
2. Analyze and determine the impact of the base custodial allocation established and implemented in 2012-2013 on the upkeep and maintenance of schools and educational facilities and custodial staff performance; and
3. Identify and review national trends and best practices for determining the allocation of custodial staff for schools and educational facilities include but are not limited to a facilities' square footage; and
4. Review with school principals and related staff, the actual utilization of square footage considering shifts in student enrollment; and
5. Work with AFSCME Union leadership to discuss and explore ways to improve the cleanliness and maintenance of schools and educational facilities; and
6. Consider and identify any recommendations for improvement to be included in the 2017-2018 proposed budget; and
7. Provide an update to the Board upon presentation of the proposed budget for the 2017-2018 school year.