



NEWS

MIAMI-DADE SCHOOL BOARD APPROVES ITEM PROPOSED BY DR. STEVE GALLON III THAT THE IMPLEMENTATION OF AN IMPROVED PROCESS FOR ACCOUNTING, REPORTING, AND AUDITING OF ALL EXPENDITURES OF GOB FUNDS BE REVIEWED ANNUALLY BY THE BOARD AND ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC

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PRESS RELEASE FROM THE OFFICE OF DR. STEVE GALLON III

November 21, 2017

At the School Board meeting of November 15, Dr. Steve Gallon III, School Board Member for District 1, proposed an item seeking the adoption and implementation of an improved process for accounting, reporting, and auditing of all expenditures of General Obligation Bond (GOB) funds. This will also include an intentional and innovative strategy and structure to inform the public and garner and maintain its confidence and trust. The item was unanimously approved by the entire Board and co-sponsored by Susie Castillo and Mari Tere Rojas.

On November 6, 2012, nearly 70 percent of voters in Miami-Dade County supported a measure on the ballot to invest in their local public schools by approving the issuance of a \$1.2 billion GOB for Miami-Dade County Public Schools (M-DCPS). This investment was explicitly earmarked for renovating facilities, updating technology, building school replacements, expanding student capacity, and enhancing facility safety. The last such measure to invest in enhancements of M-DCPS' facilities had been approved over two decades prior.

To date, M-DCPS' GOB expenditures and contracted work have exceeded \$500 million with more than 148 projects completed, and of which \$85 million having been spent on technology purchases alone.

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Improved Process For Accounting and Reporting GOB / Add One

An additional \$86 million is presently under contract and approximately an extra \$665 million are to be expended on subsequent GOB projects. Despite such expenditures and additional contractual commitments made, there has not been a comprehensive annual audit of expenditures and policy compliance provisions for the GOB.

Dr. Gallon also accepted Board Member Dr. Martin Karp's recommendation to include the category of Magnet Schools and Choice programs. The item was amended to reflect the addition and unanimously approved.

The Board approved Dr. Gallon's proposal to:

- establish a system and structure for quarterly reporting of GOB expenditures to the Board;
- provide a report of all GOB expenditures to date by each category, school board voting district, and school name, and provide same to the Board on a quarterly basis;
- establish and implement a process and system to report all GOB expenditures to the public on a quarterly basis;
- provide a summary report of the names and amounts paid to each vendor/contractor and sub-contractor to date and make it available to the public;
- continue to work with the Chief Auditor to ensure an audit of GOB expenditures to date and an audit of all remaining GOB funds; and
- provide an update on the status and/or completion of the above actions to the Board at the February 21, 2018 School Board Meeting.

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