

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.

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Dr. Martin Karp, Vice Chair  
Ms. Susie V. Castillo, Board Member  
Dr. Steve Gallon, Board Member  
Ms. Lubby Navarro, Board Member  
Dr. Marta Pérez, Board Member  
Ms. Maria Teresa Rojas, Board Member

**SUBJECT: ELIMINATION OF ALL EXPANDABLE POLYSTYRENE  
FOAM/STYROFOAM PRODUCTS**

**COMMITTEE: FISCAL ACCOUNTABILITY & GOVERNMENT RELATIONS**

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

Expandable Polystyrene Foam (ESP), known popularly by the brand name Styrofoam, has long been considered an environmental nuisance and, more recently, posed serious health concerns. Each year, an estimated 225 million ESP-based traditional lunch trays occupy space in landfills where they will not break down for hundreds of years and may leech pollutants into the water and air. More recently, concerns regarding the leeching of carcinogens into the foods carried by the trays and containers has become a serious concern. According to the National Research Council, the International Agency for Research on Cancer, and the National Toxicology Program, styrene, the main ingredient in polystyrene foam, is likely a carcinogen increasing the risk for leukemia and lymphoma in humans. Because of these environmental and health concerns, school districts, municipal governments, counties and businesses throughout the nation have moved to ban the use of ESP.

Miami-Dade County Public Schools is to be commended for its continuing efforts at conservation and reducing its reliance on polystyrene products. In 2015, through the District's participation as one of the 11 largest school districts in the country forming the Urban School Food Alliance (USFA), the price of compostable lunch trays was driven down; these districts led the way in moving towards eliminating dependence on ESP, leveraging economies of scale to drive down the cost of a compostable alternative from a cost-prohibitive 12 cents to 4.9 cents. Additionally, the District has also ensured the training of Food and Nutrition employees includes sustainability and waste reduction education under their "Lean and Green" umbrella.

Currently, school sites are using compostable lunch trays, but ESP cups, plates, containers, and trays can still be found in use at school and district facility cafeterias. This agenda item authorizes the Superintendent to initiate a feasibility study to eliminate, due to identifiable health concerns, the use and purchase of all Expandable Polystyrene Foam products at school sites and district facilities by July 2019 and report back recommendations to the Board 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.

**Revised<sup>2</sup>  
H-16**

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**SUBJECT: ELIMINATION OF ALL EXPANDABLE POLYSTYRENE  
FOAM/STYROFOAM PRODUCTS**

**COMMITTEE: FISCAL ACCOUNTABILITY & GOVERNMENT RELATIONS**

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**SUBJECT: ELIMINATION OF ALL EXPANDABLE POLYSTYRENE  
FOAM/STYROFOAM PRODUCTS**

**COMMITTEE: FISCAL ACCOUNTABILITY & GOVERNMENT RELATIONS**

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

Expandable Polystyrene Foam (ESP), known popularly by the brand name Styrofoam, has long been considered an environmental nuisance and, more recently, posed serious health concerns. Each year, an estimated 225 million ESP-based traditional lunch trays occupy space in landfills where they will not break down for hundreds of years and may leech pollutants into the water and air. More recently, concerns regarding the leeching of carcinogens into the foods carried by the trays and containers has become a serious concern. According to the National Research Council, the International Agency for Research on Cancer, and the National Toxicology Program, styrene, the main ingredient in polystyrene foam, is likely a carcinogen increasing the risk for leukemia and lymphoma in humans. Because of these environmental and health concerns, school districts, municipal governments, counties and businesses throughout the nation have moved to ban the use of ESP.

Miami-Dade County Public Schools is to be commended for its continuing efforts at conservation and reducing its reliance on polystyrene products. In 2015, through the District's participation as one of the 11 largest school districts in the country forming the Urban School Food Alliance (USFA), the price of compostable lunch trays was driven down; these districts led the way in moving towards eliminating dependence on ESP, leveraging economies of scale to drive down the cost of a compostable alternative from a cost-prohibitive 12 cents to 4.9 cents. Additionally, the District has also ensured the training of Food and Nutrition employees includes sustainability and waste reduction education under their "Lean and Green" umbrella.

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

**Revised<sup>2</sup>  
H-16**

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Co-Sponsors: Ms. Perla Tabares Hantman, Chair  
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Ms. Maria Teresa Rojas, Board Member

**SUBJECT:** AUTHORIZATION TO AMEND SCHOOL BOARD POLICY 9140-  
*CITIZENS' ADVISORY COMMITTEES* TO INCLUDE ROBERT'S  
RULES OF ORDER, NEWLY REVISED, AS THE  
PARLIAMENTARY PROCEDURES FOR CITIZENS' ADVISORY  
COMMITTEES

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

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

Citizens Advisory Committees in Miami-Dade County Public Schools are designed to keep the administration and School Board members informed with regards to different and diverse community opinions and represent the interest of students, parents, and the general public. Members carefully study specific school problems and possible solutions, review budgets and financial statements, and analyze appropriate data to arrive at sound and impartial solutions, among many others. They promote maximum interaction between the School Board and the community and raise awareness of School Board decisions and policies. Committee members represent business, industry, labor, the public sector, higher education, PTAs/PTSAs, parents, and the general public. Members bring a unique and invaluable perspective to education and their dedication and commitment to serve are greatly appreciated by all.

Nonetheless, it is also vital for advisory committee meetings to be conducted with professional decorum in support of the School Board's mission. Committee members should conduct themselves in a manner that contributes to an orderly, respectful, and organized delivery of different opinions and outcomes. Therefore, this agenda item requests authorization to amend School Board Policy 9140 – *Citizens' Advisory Committees* to include language that the parliamentary authority governing advisory committees shall be the most recent edition of Robert's Rules of Order, Newly Revised. It further requests that appropriate training be conducted on the most recent edition of Robert's Rules of Order, Newly Revised, every two years, or as needed or requested.

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

**ACTION PROPOSED BY  
MS. MARIA TERESA ROJAS:**

That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, authorize the Superintendent to initiate rulemaking proceedings in accordance with the Administrative Procedure Act to:

- 1) amend School Board Policy 9140 – *Citizens' Advisory Committees* to include language that the parliamentary authority governing advisory committees shall be the most recent edition of Robert's Rules of Order, Newly Revised; and
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- 1) amend School Board Policy 9140 – *Citizens' Advisory Committees* to include language that the parliamentary authority governing advisory committees shall be the most recent edition of Robert's Rules of Order, Newly Revised; and
- 2) provide appropriate training to members of identified advisory committees on the most recent edition of Robert's Rules of Order, Newly Revised, every two years, or as needed or requested.

Ms. Maria Teresa Rojas, Board Member

**SUBJECT:** AUTHORIZATION TO AMEND SCHOOL BOARD POLICY 9140-  
CITIZENS' ADVISORY COMMITTEES TO INCLUDE ROBERT'S  
RULES OF ORDER, NEWLY REVISED, AS THE  
PARLIAMENTARY PROCEDURES FOR CITIZENS' ADVISORY  
COMMITTEES

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

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

Citizens Advisory Committees in Miami-Dade County Public Schools are designed to keep the administration and School Board members informed with regards to different and diverse community opinions and represent the interest of students, parents, and the general public. Members carefully study specific school problems and possible solutions, review budgets and financial statements, and analyze appropriate data to arrive at sound and impartial solutions, among many others. They promote maximum interaction between the School Board and the community and raise awareness of School Board decisions and policies. Committee members represent business, industry, labor, the public sector, higher education, PTAs/PTSAs, parents, and the general public. Members bring a unique and invaluable perspective to education and their dedication and commitment to serve are greatly appreciated by all.

Nonetheless, it is also vital for advisory committee meetings to be conducted with professional decorum in support of the School Board's mission. Committee members should conduct themselves in a manner that contributes to an orderly, respectful, and organized delivery of different opinions and outcomes. Therefore, this agenda item requests authorization to amend School Board Policy 9140 – *Citizens' Advisory Committees* to include language that the parliamentary authority governing advisory committees shall be the most recent edition of Robert's Rules of Order, Newly Revised. It further requests that appropriate training be conducted on the most recent edition of Robert's Rules of Order, Newly Revised, every two years, or as needed or requested.

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

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