



Miami-Dade County Public Schools

giving our students the world

Superintendent of Schools

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Miami-Dade County School Board

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September 7, 2018

The Honorable Peggy R. Bell
Town of Cutler Bay
10720 Caribbean Boulevard, Suite 105
Cutler Bay, Florida 33189

Dear Mayor Bell:

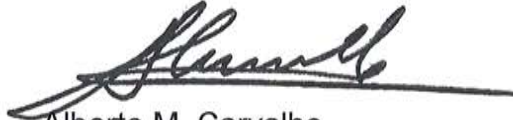
The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, voted on September 5, 2018, to endorse Governor Rick Scott's recommendation that the Joint Florida Legislative Budget Commission redirect the unused balance of approximately \$58 million from the Coach Aaron Feis Guardian Program to be equitably distributed to school districts for utilization in the hiring of school resource and safety officers. In light of the indispensable partnerships Miami-Dade County Public Schools (M-DCPS) has created with our local law enforcement agencies, the District would greatly appreciate any support demonstrated by local county and municipal governments also urging the Joint Legislative Budget Commission, which can be addressed at http://www.leg.state.fl.us/cgi-bin/View_Page.pl?File=index_css.html&Directory=committees/joint/JLBC/, to take such action.

As you are aware, the Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School Public Safety Act (SB 7026) requires that each district assign one or more police officers to each school facility and also established the Coach Aaron Feis Guardian Program. School districts statewide have faced great challenges in meeting the requirement to assign one or more police officers at each school facility due to the lack of sufficient funding.

Of the \$67.5 million appropriated for the Coach Aaron Feis Guardian Program, only \$9 million was utilized by local law enforcement to establish such programs in collaboration with local school districts. On August 21, 2018, the Florida Department of Education (FDOE), with Governor Scott's support, submitted a proposal to the Florida Joint Legislative Budget Commission to redirect approximately \$58 million of unused funding from the Coach Aaron Feis Guardian Program to school districts for additional school security. Therefore, we respectfully request your assistance in advocating to the Joint Legislative Budget Commission to distribute the unused balance from the Coach Aaron Feis Guardian Program funds to school districts, based on each district's proportionate share of the state's total unweighted full-time equivalent student enrollment, for utilization in the hiring of school resource and safety officers.

If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact Ms. Iraida R. Mendez-Cartaya, Associate Superintendent, Office of Intergovernmental Affairs, Grants Administration, and Community Engagement, at 305 995-1497 or imendez@dadeschools.net.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Alcarvalho', written over a horizontal line.

Alberto M. Carvalho
Superintendent of Schools

AMC:emr
L260

cc: School Board Members
School Board Attorney
Superintendent's Cabinet