

Dr. Martin Karp, Vice Chair

SUBJECT: DRUG PREVENTION, NEW CHALLENGES AND POLICY PROVISIONS

COMMITTEE: ACADEMIC, INNOVATION, EVALUATION & TECHNOLOGY

LINK TO STRATEGIC BLUEPRINT: INFORMED, ENGAGED & EMPOWERED STAKEHOLDERS } Revised

The latest findings from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention revealed more than 64,000 Americans died from drug overdoses in 2016, which includes illicit drugs and prescription Opioids. This staggering number has nearly doubled in the last decade. Of the 64,000 drug overdoses, Opioids killed more than 42,000 people in 2016, more than any year on record, and the numbers are continuing to rise. This drug epidemic is impacting all demographics in every zip code. Drug prevention has been addressed by Board Chair Perla Tabares Hantman and Board Member Lubby Navarro and now is an opportune time to discuss this issue further. } Revised

Given the severity of this epidemic, Miami-Dade County Public Schools (M-DCPS) needs to review all District implemented drug prevention programs to decide if those programs should be updated, continued or discontinued. The research department should also review if there are new and more effective programs and strategies to prevent the next generation from experimenting with and getting addicted to drugs.

As the District prepares to adopt a budget, all anti-drug and drug prevention funded programs should be evaluated for effectiveness. If research is unavailable, or if program outcomes are not clear, then the elimination of such programs or the introduction of alternative strategies should be considered. With the imminent hiring of more counselors, strong consideration should be given to hiring some counselors that specialize in substance abuse and addiction.

While considering current strategies towards drug prevention, the rapid increase in the use of e-cigarettes, specifically the Juul, which resembles a flash drive and can be charged in a laptop's USB port, should be addressed through new School Board policy given that "Juuling" is becoming popular and its design is easy for students to conceal and use in school and even during class. Each Juul pod contains nicotine equivalent to a pack of cigarettes, thus including a highly addictive ingredient. Sometimes, pods are filled with marijuana. Juul's products, which come in a variety of flavors, are manufactured in a way that make them kid-friendly. } Revised

Policy makers in school districts outside of Florida have begun addressing this problem and some have started amending school board policy. Miami-Dade County School Board policies should be reviewed to determine whether any update is necessary due to the increased use of the latest smoking alternative, the Juul product.

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

**ACTION PROPOSED BY
DR. MARTIN KARP:**

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

1. Review and evaluate the effectiveness of current drug prevention programs in the District, with the possible inclusion of students, impacted parents and drug prevention specialists, and determine if these programs should be updated or eliminated before the presentation of the 2018-2019 budget; and, } Revised
2. Accumulate and evaluate data gathered by the District's research department to see if there are more effective drug prevention methods and programs that M-DCPS should implement before finalizing the 2018-19-budget; and,
3. Continue to ensure that when hiring additional counselors they have the credentials to address substance abuse and addiction; and, } Revised
4. Determine whether any revision or recommendation is necessary to current policies due to a wave of new drugs such as the latest smoking alternative, the Juul product; and; } Revised
5. Provide a response before the presentation of the budget for 2018-19-school year.