

Dr. Martin Karp, Board Member

SUBJECT: TELEPRESENCE VIDEO CONFERENCING

COMMITTEE: ACADEMICS, EVALUATION AND TECHNOLOGY

LINK TO STRATEGIC BLUEPRINT: RELEVANT, RIGOROUS & INNOVATIVE ACADEMICS

Telepresence refers to a set of technologies which allow a person to feel as if they were present, to give the appearance of being present, or to have an effect at a place other than their true location. Telepresence videoconferencing is the highest possible level of videotelephony. Telepresence via video deploys greater technical sophistication and improved fidelity of both sight and sound than in traditional videoconferencing. (Source: *Wikipedia*).

A possibility exists for teachers in Miami-Dade County Public Schools (M-DCPS) to reach larger audiences of students outside the schools where they teach including additional District schools, hospital rooms, juvenile detention centers, and/or schools anywhere around the world.

The Districts' teachers could share their expertise with a greater number of students through a telepresence mode of delivery where teachers from anywhere in the District are streamed live and projected on monitors in classrooms where instruction is given and student interaction with teachers is possible.

The increased use of a telepresence mode of instruction can also provide greater services to students participating in Extended Foreign Language (EFL) programs. The delivery of EFL programs can be further strengthened by using linguistically qualified teachers from the Miami-Dade County School District and from around the world.

Students could be aggregated in a Telepresence room while a hospital home bound student could be on his or her laptop participating in the same class.

Miami-Dade County teachers can be in the forefront as their lessons are shared beyond the walls of their classrooms. Teacher experiences could be enhanced, and increased opportunities for teachers could become available as wider audiences of students become a reality.

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

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

1. explore the possibility of enhancing virtual education via a telepresence mode of instruction; and,
2. determine the feasibility of the telepresence mode of instruction and the areas in which this method benefits M-DCPS students and employees.