



# Miami-Dade County Public Schools

*giving our students the world*

Superintendent of Schools  
Alberto M. Carvalho

August 2, 2013

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The Honorable Lucie Tondreau  
City of North Miami  
776 N.E. 125 Street  
North Miami, FL 33161

Dear Mayor Tondreau and Council Members:

Miami-Dade County Public Schools (M-DCPS) is committed to meeting the needs of all members of the community. This includes maintaining quality relationships with its municipalities, especially when it involves mutually beneficial initiatives. In your city, we recently celebrated the successful construction of two new schools, Arch Creek Elementary and Alonzo and Tracy Mourning Senior High, and replacements for two facilities, North Miami Middle School and North Miami Senior High.

However, after observing the discussion on the submittal of a charter senior high application during your July 9, 2013 City Council meeting, I believe there is a need to clarify certain points that were publicly made but are factually incorrect:

- 1) "Only 20% of students from the City of North Miami attend both David Lawrence K-8 and Alonzo and Tracy Mourning Senior High combined." According to 2012-13 school year attendance data for North Miami residents, 962 students attended David Lawrence K-8 Center, and 490 students attended Alonzo and Tracy Mourning Senior High, which respectively represent approximately 60 percent and 29 percent of the schools' total student population.
- 2) "Future Biscayne Landings students would not attend David Lawrence K-8 or Alonzo and Tracy Mourning Senior High." In accordance with School Board Policy 5120, on an annual basis, "the Attendance Boundary Committee (ABC), in conjunction with the community considers recommendations for the assignment of students that are consistent with the best interests of students and the best use of District resources. Community input on boundary changes is solicited at regional community meetings. Individuals who wish to present alternative recommendations can do so through this process." Other factors that are considered through the committee relate to the class size reduction mandate, impact on special education programs, transportation, new residential developments, construction of new schools, maintenance of diverse school enrollments, and other items. This is a transparent system and we welcome the City's participation through the process.
- 3) "City of North Miami students west of N.W. 7<sup>th</sup> Ave are being shipped out and there is no high school in the area." Based on the established boundary, approximately 170 students from the City of North Miami attended Miami Central Senior High. This represents approximately 5 percent of the City's high school age population. During the

past year, 1230 of the high school aged students residing within the City attended North Miami Senior High which represents approximately 50 percent of the school's student body. M-DCPS offers parents many school choice options throughout the district. In fact, during the 2012-13 school year the City of North Miami had 9,004 city residents enrolled at 193 different public schools throughout the district.

District staff is receptive to meeting with you to address any concerns. Please feel free to contact me at 305 995-1497 or imendez@dadeschools.net. We look forward to working collaboratively to serve the citizens of the City of North Miami.

Sincerely,



Iraida R. Mendez-Cartaya,  
Assistant Superintendent  
Office of Intergovernmental Affairs, Grants  
Administration, and Community Engagement

IRM-C:lbd  
L013

cc: Mr. Alberto M. Carvalho  
School Board Attorney  
Mrs. Valtena G. Brown  
Mr. Jaime Torrens