

Dr. Marta Pérez, Board Member

**SUBJECT: ROBERT'S RULES OF ORDER**

**COMMITTEE: INSTRUCTIONAL EXCELLENCE AND COMMUNITY  
ENGAGEMENT**

**LINK TO DISTRICT  
STRATEGIC PLAN: REFORM BUSINESS PRACTICES TO ENSURE  
EFFICIENCY, EFFECTIVENESS AND HIGH  
ETHICAL STANDARDS**

School Board Rule 6Gx13- 8c-1.12, Board Meetings – Rules of Order and Parliamentarian, simply states that , “. . .the parliamentary procedure to be followed by the Dade County School Board will be Robert's Rules of Order Revised, . . .”.

Unfortunately, this language has not been sufficient to help foster the harmonious meeting that is the aim of Robert's Rules of Order: to exercise the will of the majority but respect and protect the rights of the minority. We should revise this School Board Rule to contain more specific language regarding respect for speakers and other applicable provisions that will help to run more efficient meetings. This item asks the Superintendent to amend our board rule to include the actual language in Robert's Rules of Order Revised that addresses the role of the Chair, the rights of speakers, and interruptions, specifically:

*“When a member has the floor or has been assigned the floor, it is out of order for another to call out a motion to adjourn, or a motion to lay the pending question on the table. If someone does so, or if calls of “Question!” are made, it is the duty of the chair to obtain order and protect the rights of the member who is entitled to the floor.”*

*“When a member has been assigned the floor and has begun to speak – unless he begins to discuss a subject when no motion is pending or speaks longer in debate than the rules of the assembly allow – he cannot be interrupted by another member or by the chair . . . . and then only when the urgency of the situation justifies it.”*

**ACTION PROPOSED BY  
DR. MARTA PÉREZ:**

That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida direct the Superintendent to initiate rulemaking procedures to amend School Board Rule 6Gx13- 8c-1.12, Board Meetings – Rules of Order and Parliamentarian, to include language from Robert's Rules of Order Revised that addresses the role of the Chair, the rights of speakers, and interruptions.