

Office of Superintendent of Schools  
Board Meeting of August 25, 1999

August 16, 1999

Office of School Board Attorney  
Johnny Brown, Board Attorney

**SUBJECT: PROVISION OF DEFENSE COUNSEL TO LT. LEON SZCZEPANSKI IN THE CASE OF SUNDAY EZOMOGENE v. MIAMI-DADE COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD AND LEON SZCZEPANSKI, USDC Case No. 99-370-CIV-MOORE/O'SULLIVAN**

The above styled lawsuit was filed in the United States District Court, Southern District of Florida, Miami Division, and served on July 15, 1999, on Lt. Leon Szczepanski of the M-DCPS police and on the Miami-Dade County Public Schools. The lawsuit alleges that the Defendants violated Plaintiff's constitutional rights as a result of false imprisonment. Because an answer or motion to dismiss was due on July 30, 1999, this office timely responded to the Complaint on behalf of the Board and Lt. Szczepanski.

We do not believe that the lawsuit has merit and are requesting that the School Board, pursuant to the authority vested in it under § 230.234, Florida Statutes (1997), authorize a legal defense for Lt. Szczepanski.

**RECOMMENDED:** That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, authorize the Office of the School Board Attorney to provide for the defense of Lt. Leon Szczepanski in the Case of Sunday Ezomoghene v. Miami-Dade Public Schools and Leon Szczepanski, USDC Case No. 99-370-CIV-MOORE/O'SULLIVAN

JB/MPS:nc

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