

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

August 16, 1999

Office of School Board Attorney  
Johnny Brown, Board Attorney

**SUBJECT: PROPOSED SETTLEMENT IN L. PHYLLIS DeVALENCIA v. DADE  
COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS AND JOSEPH HALASZ - CASE NO. 96-  
16718 CA 01 (11)**

Plaintiff filed a lawsuit in Circuit Court alleging that the Board violated the Whistleblower Acts, by eliminating her position in retaliation for her whistleblowing activities. Plaintiff also sued Joseph Halasz, an Assistant Principal of South Dade Adult Center in his individual capacity for battery and intentional infliction of emotional distress. Plaintiff sought reinstatement to her position, compensatory and punitive damages, attorney's fees and costs.

The School Board, Joseph Halasz and Plaintiff have reached a tentative agreement on the terms of the settlement, subject to School Board approval. Approval of the agreement, provided previously under separate cover, would obviate the necessity of further legal proceedings.

**RECOMMENDED:** That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida authorize the settlement of the above referenced litigation in accordance with the terms of the Settlement Agreement. The settlement of this lawsuit will release the School Board and Joseph Halasz from all claims including damages, attorney's fees and costs.

JB:THP:mew

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