

Office of School Board Attorney
Johnny Brown, Board Attorney

SUBJECT: RETENTION OF THE LAW FIRM PYSZKA, BLACKMON, LEVY & MOWERS, P.A. TO HANDLE ASSIGNED LIABILITY DEFENSE CASES IN LITIGATION

Jeffrey A. Mowers, Esquire, has announced that he is leaving the law firm of Peters, Robertson, Parsons, Mowers & Passaro, P.A., one of the defense liability firms that handle litigation in the area of personal injury and other tort actions for the School Board, to accept a partnership in the Miami law firm of Pyszka, Blackmon, Levy & Mowers, P.A.

Mr. Mowers has been with the Peters firm for approximately 15 years, working extensively in School Board cases in a broad variety of areas involving premises liability, negligence and other tort actions, as well as employment discrimination and civil rights claims. Additionally, he is the only outside counsel approved to handle cases under the School Police Professional Liability Insurance Program. Currently, he has 16 active School Board cases in litigation, including the Marist Brothers/Columbus High case. He has achieved excellent results for the Board during his tenure with the Peters firm, and I firmly believe that the Board's interests will be well served in retaining his new firm.

The Pyszka firm has a solid reputation in this community and is experienced in all areas of civil litigation, with a history of representing public entities, including school boards. The firm currently represents Monroe County School Board. When Mr. Mowers joins the firm, the firm will have eight lawyers and a total of 25 employees. A firm resumé will be provided to Board members under separate cover.

This item does not appear in the published agenda. There is good cause to vary from the agenda in that Mr. Mowers had not finalized the details of his acceptance of a partnership in the Pyszka firm by the date of publication of the agenda. Moreover, Mr. Mowers is currently handling 16 School Board cases which are in litigation and, therefore, it is necessary to ensure continuity in defending these cases.

RECOMMENDED: That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, retain the law firm of Pyszka, Blackmon, Levy & Mowers, P.A. to handle tort actions and other litigation, as assigned by and subject to the supervision of the Board Attorney, for fees to be billed at the rate of \$90 per hour and with reimbursement of costs advanced.

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