

Office of Superintendent of Schools
Board Meeting of July 10, 2002

July 8, 2002

Financial Affairs
Richard H. Hinds, Chief Financial Officer

SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR AUTHORIZATION TO CONTRACT WITH THE LAW FIRM OF COLODNY, FASS, TALENFELD, KARLINSKY & ABATE, P.A. TO PROVIDE LEGAL SERVICES SPECIFIC TO EMPLOYEE BENEFIT LAW RELATING TO HEALTH INSURANCE RENEWAL FOR CALENDAR YEAR 2003

At the Board meeting of June 19, 2002, the Board authorized the Superintendent to enter into negotiations with the law firm of Colodny, Fass, Talenfeld, Karlinsky & Abate, P.A., to effectuate a contract to provide the Board legal services, specific to employee benefit law in relation to its health insurance renewal for calendar year 2003.

The Board Attorney's Office received a letter from the law firm outlining their experience and quoting a proposed fee structure. A copy of the letter has been provided to Board members under separate cover. Subsequently, the Board Attorney's Office negotiated a reduced rate with the Colodny firm for their services at \$280/hour for partner time, \$175/hour for associates' time, and \$75/hour for paralegal time. Reasonable costs and expenses will be reimbursed pursuant to Board Rule and State law, with prior approval required by the Office of Risk and Benefits Management and the Board Attorney's Office for extraordinary costs.

Staff, with the concurrence of the Board Attorney, is recommending that a legal services agreement be entered into with the law firm of Colodny, Fass, Talenfeld, Karlinsky & Abate, P.A., with funding for such legal fees to come from the Board's liability claims loss fund (0100,5324,9112,8150,7730), in an amount not to exceed \$75,000.

RECOMMENDED: That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida contract with the law firm of Colodny, Fass, Talenfeld, Karlinsky & Abate, P.A., to provide legal services specific to employee benefit law in relation to its health insurance renewal for calendar year 2003 at hourly fees of \$280 for partners, \$175 for associates, and \$75 for paralegal, with total expenditures not to exceed \$75,000, with funding for this contract to come from the Board's general liability claims fund (0100,5324,9112,8150,7730).

Funds for this expenditure will be included in the General Fund of the 2002-2003 Adopted Budget.

RHH:sc

**REPLACEMENT
G-46**