

Personnel Management and Services
Magaly C. Abrahante, Chief Personnel Officer

SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR AUTHORIZATION TO RECOGNIZE THE PROFESSIONAL EDUCATORS NETWORK OF FLORIDA (PEN) AS A PROFESSIONAL TEACHER ASSOCIATION AND APPROVE VOLUNTARY AUTOMATIC PAYROLL DUES DEDUCTIONS

COMMITTEE: PERSONNEL SERVICES, MEDIA COMMUNICATIONS AND MARKETING

Pursuant to F.S. 231.6075, Rulemaking authority; professional teacher associations. – The State Board of Education shall adopt such rules as necessary to ensure that not-for-profit, professional teacher associations which offer membership to all teachers, noninstructional personnel, and administrators, and which offer teacher training and staff development at no fee to the district shall be given equal access to voluntary teacher meetings, be provided access to teacher mailboxes for distribution of professional literature, and be authorized to collect voluntary membership fees through payroll deductions. The Florida Department of Education (DOE) has taken the position that the statute is self-executing; therefore, DOE will not be adopting any rules.

The DOE has identified the Professional Educators Network of Florida (PEN) as meeting the criteria outlined in said Florida Statute. A review of PEN's documentation by district staff confirms their eligibility. PEN is a statewide, not-for-profit education association, founded in November 1995, by a group of educators and interested supporters. Ms. Cathy DeMoisey, Administrative Director, PEN, has submitted a request, on behalf of the organization, to participate in the district's payroll deduction program, to access teachers' mailboxes for distribution of professional literature, and to access voluntary teacher meetings.

School Board Rule 6Gx13- 4D-1.04, Compensation and Related Benefits, Salary Deductions, and School Board Rule 6Gx13- 4D-1.05, Compensation and Related Benefits, Salary Deductions - Employee Organizations authorize the Superintendent to make voluntary automatic payroll dues deductions for School Board approved organizations.

Authorization is requested from the School Board to recognize PEN as a professional teacher association and approve voluntary automatic payroll dues deductions for membership in PEN. PEN has requested that deductions be effective for the 2002-2003 school year.

RECOMMENDED: That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida:

1. recognize the Professional Educators Network of Florida (PEN) as a professional teacher association, and
2. approve voluntary automatic payroll dues deductions for membership in PEN, effective for the 2002-2003 school year.

MCA/mtp