

Office of Superintendent of Schools
Board Meeting of August 20, 2003

August 8, 2003

Office of School Board Attorney
Johnny Brown, Board Attorney

SUBJECT: THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA v. NEIL D. LEFKOWITZ - DOAH CASE NO. 03-0186

On January 15, 2003, the School Board suspended and initiated dismissal proceedings against Neil D. Lefkowitz, a teacher, for just cause, including, but not limited to, immorality, misconduct in office, violation of the School Board Rule 6Gx13-4.109, *Employee-Student Relationships* and 6Gx13-4A-1.21, *Responsibilities and Duties*. A hearing was requested and the case was tried on April 21, 2003, before DOAH Administrative Law Judge Patricia Hart Malono.

By recommended order entered July 31, 2003, the Administrative Law Judge found that Mr. Lefkowitz was guilty of having committed misconduct in office and of violating School Board Rules 6Gx13-4-1.09 and 6Gx13-4A-1.21 and recommended that the School Board enter a final order suspending him without pay for a period of twenty-four (24) months, retroactive to January 15, 2003.

RECOMMENDED: That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida enter a final order in the case of The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida v. Neil D. Lefkowitz, DOAH Case No. 03-0186, adopting the Administrative Law Judge's Recommended Order (1) finding that Neil D. Lefkowitz is guilty of having committed misconduct in office and of violating School Board Rules 6Gx13- 4-1.09 and 6Gx13- 4A-1.21; (2) suspending Mr. Lefkowitz without pay for a period of twenty-four (24) months, retroactive to the date on which the School Board suspended him from his employment without pay; and (3) imposing such conditions on Mr. Lefkowitz upon his return to employment as the School Board deems appropriate.

MLM/cao

C-1