

Office of Superintendent of Schools
Board Meeting of February 11, 2004

January 28, 2004

Office of School Board Attorney
Johnny Brown, Board Attorney

SUBJECT: THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA v. SOPHIA CHEEKS - DOAH CASE NO.: 03-0930

On March 13, 2003, The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, took action to suspend school bus driver Sophia Cheeks from her employment with The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, for an incident in which Ms. Cheeks instigated a physical altercation with a student on a school bus. Ms. Cheeks was charged with violation of School Board Rules 6Gx13-4-1.08, *Violence in the Workplace*, 6Gx13-4A-1.21, *Responsibilities and Duties* and 6Gx13-5D-1.07, *Corporal Punishment Prohibited*. The employee requested a hearing and the case was tried on September 12, 2003, before Administrative Law Judge Daniel Manry of the Division of Administrative Hearings.

By recommended order entered December 4, 2003, the Administrative Law Judge affirmed the School Board's decision and recommended that the School Board enter a final order sustaining Ms. Cheeks' suspension for 30 days without pay.

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. Sophia Cheeks, DOAH Case No.03-0930, adopting the Administrative Law Judge's Recommended Order sustaining the suspension Sophia Cheeks for 30 days without pay from The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida.

MLM/pyc

C-2