

Office of Superintendent of Schools
Board Meeting of April 14, 2004

April 2, 2004

Office of School Board Attorney
Johnny Brown, Board Attorney

**SUBJECT: SUBSTITUTION OF COUNSEL TO HANDLE ASSIGNED
LIABILITY DEFENSE CASES IN LITIGATION**

COMMITTEE: BUSINESS AND FINANCIAL SERVICES

Angones, Hunter, McClure, Lynch, Williams & Garcia, P.A., one of the Board's outside liability defense firms, has advised that as of the close of business Friday, April 2, 2004, the firm will stop doing business and the attorneys in the firm will be reorganized into two (2) new and separate firms that will begin operating on April 3, 2004. All of the attorneys currently handling litigation for the School Board will become members of the newly created firm of Angones, McClure and Garcia, P.A.

The attorneys being reorganized into Angones, McClure and Garcia, P.A., work extensively on School Board cases in a broad variety of areas involving premises liability, negligence, other tort actions as well as workers' compensation defense. These attorneys have achieved excellent results for the Board during their tenure with the previous Angones Hunter firm, and I believe that the Board's interests will be best served in retaining them as part of the new firm.

The Board Attorney, Office of Risk and Benefits Management and Gallagher Bassett Services, Inc. all concur that it serves the best interests of the School Board to retain the law firm of Angones, McClure and Garcia, P.A. and authorize substitution of counsel to continue handling tort actions and other litigation as assigned by the Board Attorney.

RECOMMENDED: That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, retain the law firm of Angones, McClure and Garcia, P.A. and authorize substitution of counsel to handle tort actions and other litigation, as assigned and subject to the supervision of the Board Attorney, for the fee structure previously approved by the Board whereby legal defense is provided at a rate of \$90 per hour, with all other fees, including paralegals and law clerks, at a rate of \$50 per hour, effective April 3, 2004.

JB/sh

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