

Merrett R. Stierheim, Superintendent of Schools

SUBJECT: REQUEST AUTHORIZATION TO JOIN WITH OTHER FLORIDA SCHOOL DISTRICTS TO SHARE PROPORTIONATE COSTS OF COMPETENT CONSTITUTIONAL LEGAL RESEARCH ON WHETHER THE STATE OF FLORIDA IS COMPLYING WITH THE CONSTITUTIONAL REQUIREMENT TO ADEQUATELY FUND PUBLIC EDUCATION AND DETERMINE WHETHER LEGAL REMEDIES ARE JUSTIFIED

} Revised

COMMITTEE: LEGISLATIVE RELATIONS, PUBLIC RELATIONS AND PERSONNEL SERVICES

} Deleted

At the April 19, 2004 Tri-County School Board meeting, the majority of our Board (five), seven of nine Board members from Broward, and three Board members present from Palm Beach, unanimously voted to pursue legal relief as it pertains to the constitutional requirement for the State to provide an adequate level of funding for public education. It was the unanimous position of the 15 Board members present that State funding for public education was inadequate. Further, the three Superintendents were directed to share Board member concerns with the Governor personally that afternoon. The Board Attorney has already engaged Constitutional legal services from Holland and Knight. In addition, the Board members at the Tri-County meeting also expressed unanimous support for the content of Board Member Agustin Barrera's Agenda Item D-13.

} Revised

} Deleted

It is imperative that this district explore all manner of remedies available to reverse the assault and dismantling of the FEFP, including possible legal challenges based on the constitutional requirement to provide for adequate and equitable funding for education.

} Deleted

RECOMMENDED: That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida authorize the Superintendent and Board Attorney to join with other Florida school districts to share proportionate costs of competent constitutional legal research on whether the State of Florida is complying with the constitutional requirement to adequately fund public education and determine whether legal remedies are justified.

} Revised