

Office of School Board Attorney
JulieAnn Rico, Board Attorney

SUBJECT: THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA v. JOAN E. WILLIAMS, - DOAH CASE NO. 05-1802

On May 18, 2005, the School Board took action to suspend and initiate dismissal proceedings against school psychologist, Joan E. Williams, for just cause. A hearing was requested and the case was tried on October 17-20, 2005, and on December 12-15, 2005, before DOAH Administrative Law Judge Claude Arrington.

By Recommended Order entered April 25, 2006, the Administrative Law Judge ruled in the School Board's favor finding that there was just cause to terminate the school psychologist's professional service contract, effective May 18, 2005.

Exceptions to the Recommended Order have been filed on behalf of the school psychologist. Those Exceptions, the Administration's response to the Exceptions, along with the Recommended Order and complete record in the case have been forwarded to the School Board members under separate cover. The school psychologist's Exceptions seek to have the findings of the Administrative Law Judge Recommended Order rejected, reinstating her as a school psychologist with the school system, awarding her back pay and all concomitant benefits with interest, restoring her vacation and sick leave time and award her costs and attorney's fees.

RECOMMENDED: That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida take one of the following actions in the case of The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida v. Joan E. Williams, DOAH Case No. 05-1802:

- (1) Adopt the Recommended Order of the Administrative Law Judge in its entirety as its Final Order, and thus reject the Exceptions; or
- (2) Adopt the Exceptions to the Recommended Order filed on behalf of the school psychologist and enter a Final Order consistent with those Exceptions, thus rejecting the Recommended Order of the Administrative Law Judge.