

Office of School Board Attorney  
JulieAnn Rico, Board Attorney

**SUBJECT: PROVISION OF LEGAL REPRESENTATION TO INDIVIDUALLY NAMED DEFENDANTS IN THE MATTER OF: MELINA RODRIGUEZ v. MIAMI-DADE COUNTY SCHOOL, SULEIDY GONZALEZ and JACQUELINE PALMER--  
CIRCUIT COURT CASE NO. 06-13619 CA 31**

**COMMITTEE: SCHOOL SUPPORT ACCOUNTABILITY**

The above-referenced lawsuit was filed on July 14, 2006, in the Circuit Court of the Eleventh Judicial Circuit in and for Miami-Dade County, Florida, against The School Board and the individually named Defendants, Suleidy Gonzalez and Jacqueline Palmer, who are not employees of the School Board. They are cheerleading coaches at West Miami Middle and receive no compensation from the School Board but are paid, pursuant to an agreement, by the parents of the cheerleaders. The Board Attorney's office hereby submits this request to the Board for authorization to provide legal representation to Suleidy Gonzalez and Jacqueline Palmer.

The defense of these two coaches will not require any additional costs to the District as their defense is identical to that of the School Board's.

Pursuant to School Board Rule 6Gx13-1C-1.02 *Legal Services for Employees of the Board*, and the authority granted under § 1012.26, Fla. Stat. (2006), the Board Attorney's office hereby requests that the Board authorize the provision of legal representation by the School Board Attorney's office for the individually named Defendants in this lawsuit.

**RECOMMENDED:** That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, authorize the office of the School Board Attorney to provide or secure legal representation for the defense of Suleidy Gonzalez and Jacqueline Palmer, individually named Defendants, in the matter of Melina Rodriguez v. *Miami-Dade County School Board and Suleidy Gonzalez and Jacqueline Palmer*, Circuit Court of the 11<sup>th</sup> Judicial Circuit in and for Miami-Dade County, Florida, Case No. 06-13619 CA 31.