

Ms. Evelyn Langlieb Greer, Board Member

SUBJECT: REDUCTION OF BOARD MEMBERS BUDGETS

COMMITTEE: INNOVATION, EFFICIENCY & GOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS

LINK TO DISTRICT

**STRATEGIC PLAN: NEED TO IMPROVE EFFICIENCY/EFFECTIVENESS OF
BUSINESS PRACTICES**

The Board is confronting a serious budget crisis, due both to the reduction in state and local revenues due to the impending recession in the State of Florida, the possible property tax reduction vote on January 29, 2008, the likely reduction of the property tax base due to falling property values in Miami-Dade County and the continued increase in the cost of gasoline and health insurance. The Board has continually directed the administration to cut non-school site expenses, and especially to cut downtown administrative expenses.

At the Board Budget Retreat on December 17, 2007, the Board discussed the challenges resulting from reductions of some of the District's revenues and projected increases in some of the expenditures. Some of the major challenges are:

- The proposed portability and tangible personal property tax exemption will impact school districts.
- It is predicted that \$2 billion will be cut from the state budget next spring – a budget of which education consumes 60 percent.
- Health insurance costs increased by 13% for FY 08.

The nine Board members currently have a budget that exceeds \$3 million, for personal assistants, office expense and miscellaneous items. There is no budget established for or report of the use of these funds and such funds do not directly impact education at the school site. In light of budget cuts to both school site and non-school site budgets, it is appropriate to reduce the allocation to School Board members offices by 10%.

ACTION PROPOSED BY

EVELYN LANGLIEB GREER: That the School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida:

To direct the administration to reduce the 2007-2008 Board Members budgets by 10%, effective for as of February 1, 2008.

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