

Office of Superintendent of Schools  
Board Meeting of June 18, 2008

May 27, 2008

Office of School Board Attorney  
JulieAnn Rico, Board Attorney

**SUBJECT: THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA v. DOUGLAS COOK, JR., DOAH Case No. 08-0318**

On December 19, 2007, the School Board took action to suspend Douglas Cook, Jr., an assistant principal with Miami-Dade County Public Schools, for thirty workdays without pay. The charges included, among other things, immorality and misconduct in office. Respondent requested an administrative hearing on his suspension, and the hearing was held on March 26, 2008 before Administrative Law Judge Robert E. Meale.

By Recommended Order entered May 9, 2008, the Administrative Law Judge recommended that the School Board enter a final order finding Respondent guilty of misconduct in office for intentionally misrepresenting his academic qualifications in applying for credential pay for a doctorate degree. In the Recommended Order, the Administrative Law Judge recommended that a thirty (30) workday suspension be imposed on Respondent. The Administrative Law Judge also recommended that the School Board reimburse Respondent for ten (10) workdays that were mistakenly counted as part of the thirty (30) workday suspension.

A copy of the Recommended Order is being furnished to the Board under separate cover, along with a copy of the proposed Final Order.

**RECOMMENDED:** That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida enter a Final Order accepting the Administrative Law Judge's Recommended Order in the case of The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida v. Douglas Cook, DOAH Case No. 08-0318 suspending Respondent for thirty workdays without pay and reimbursing Respondent for ten days that were mistakenly counted as part of the thirty workday suspension.