

Office of Superintendent of Schools
Board Meeting of September 9, 2009

August 26, 2009

Office of School Board Attorney
Walter J. Harvey, School Board Attorney

**SUBJECT: APPROVAL OF SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT
THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA v.
MONIQUE WOODS - DOAH CASE NO. 08-1579**

On March 12, 2008, the School Board suspended Monique Woods, a paraprofessional with the District, and initiated dismissal proceedings against her for just cause including, but not limited to, violations of School Board Rules 6Gx13- 4A-1.21, *Responsibilities and Duties*; 6Gx13- 5D- 1.07, *Corporal Punishment-Prohibited*; 6Gx13- 4-1.08, *Violence in the Workplace*, and 6Gx13- 4A-1.213, *Code of Ethics*. Respondent requested an administrative hearing, which was held on December 8, 2008, before Administrative Law Judge Errol Powell. By Recommended Order entered on April 30, 2009, the Administrative Law Judge recommended that the School Board enter a Final Order suspending Respondent without pay from March 12, 2008, through the end of the 2008-2009 school year.

Both parties filed exceptions to the Recommended Order which were briefly addressed at the School Board meeting of June 17, 2009. At this meeting, the parties agreed to discuss possible resolution to this case.

The parties have now reached a Settlement Agreement pending Board approval that will resolve the remaining issues in this case. With the Superintendent's approval, this office recommends that the Settlement Agreement be accepted in its entirety, the essential terms of which includes extending Respondent's suspension without pay until January 4, 2010.

Acceptance and approval of the Settlement Agreement, forwarded under separate cover, will obviate the need for further action on this matter.

RECOMMENDED: That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida approve the Settlement Agreement and enter a Final Order in the case of The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida v. Monique Woods, DOAH Case No. 08-1579, incorporating the terms of the Settlement Agreement.

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