

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

**SUBJECT: MODIFICATION OF EXISTING CONTRACT WITH
OUTSIDE COUNSEL TEW CARDENAS TO CLARIFY THE
FIRM'S BILLING RATES AND METHODS IN AN EFFORT
TO CONTROL COSTS**

**COMMITTEE: INNOVATION, EFFICIENCY AND GOVERNMENTAL
RELATIONS**

**LINK TO DISTRICT
STRATEGIC
FRAMEWORK: FINANCIAL EFFICIENCY/STABILITY**

The Board Attorney's office in its mission to control costs for the District, seeks authorization from the Board to enter into a new contract with the law firm of Tew Cardenas LLP ("Tew Cardenas"). Tew Cardenas represents the Board, as one of the Board's outside counsels in numerous cases, specifically handling construction cases for the District.

This new contract will govern all cases/matters with Tew Cardenas and re-establish the firm's billing rates, methods and will require the firm to adhere to new Outside Counsel Guidelines.

All existing contracts and/or agreements between the School Board and Tew Cardenas will be nullified and superseded with this new contract. This new contract for legal services will conform to the requirements specified in School Board Rule 6Gx13-3F-1.01, *Approval by School Board Attorney*.

RECOMMENDED: That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida authorize the School Board Attorney's office to enter into a new contract on behalf of the Board for legal services with Tew Cardenas LLP, re-establishing the firm's billing rates and methods in accordance with new Outside Counsel Guidelines. Shareholders from the firm of Tew Cardenas will be compensated at the discounted rate of \$295.00 per hour; associates will be compensated at \$225.00 per hour, and paralegals from the firm will be paid an hourly fee of \$100.00.