

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

**SUBJECT:                   REQUEST APPROVAL OF ASSIGNMENT OF PRE-EXISTING OUTSIDE COUNSEL CONTRACT TO NEW LAW FIRM PURSUANT TO REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL NO. 049-KK10 – LEGAL SERVICES**

**COMMITTEE:               SCHOOL SUPPORT ACCOUNTABILITY**

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

At its June 16, 2010 meeting, the School Board through Agenda Item E-142 authorized the School Board Attorney to contract with outside law firms for services in specialized areas of legal practice.

Mr. Jeffrey A. Mowers, Esq. has handled many matters for the District through the Board approved law firm of Pyszka, Blackmon, Levy, Mowers & Kelley. Mr. Mowers, who has served the district for more than two decades, is no longer with Pyszka, Blackmon, Levy, Mowers & Kelley and has become a partner in the law firm of Lewis, Brisbois, Bisgaard, & Smith, LLP. Mr. Mowers has requested continuity of his service to the Board with his new law firm. Mr. Mowers currently represents the Board in five tort cases and one employment case necessitating that his prior contracts with the School Board be assigned to his new firm. Accordingly, the School Board Attorney is presenting the following modification of the selected firms and contracts existing for the Board's approval:

- **General Liability (Professional, Personal and Automobile Injury Liability)**

Pyszka, Blackmon, Levy, Mowers & Kelley

The above listed firm is being replaced with the firm of Lewis Brisbois Bisgaard & Smith LLP

**All other previously selected firms remain the same.**

**RECOMMENDED:**

That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, pursuant to the authority granted at the June 16, 2010 School Board meeting and in accordance with the RFP No. 049-KK10-Legal Services, further authorize the Office of the School Board Attorney to contract on behalf of the Board for legal services with the law firm of Lewis, Brisbois, Bisgaard, & Smith, LLP, will be compensated in tort cases at the rate of \$140 per hour for partners, \$120 per hour for associates, and on employment cases at the rate of \$75 per hour for paralegals and \$200 per hour for partners, \$175 per hour for 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> year associates, \$135 per hour for 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> year associates, and \$90 per hour for paralegal.