

Dr. Dorothy Bendross-Mindingall, Board Member

SUBJECT: CONTRACT RENEWALS

COMMITTEE: INNOVATION, EFFICIENCY, & GOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS

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

In today's uncertain economy Miami-Dade County Public Schools (M-DCPS) has remained open to new ideas and cognizant of the many relationships it has within our community. This covenant of cooperation and forward thinking has allowed the district to open challenging Magnet programs in schools that have never had them, to revamp its purchasing policy in regards to local vendors and Minority and Women Business Enterprises (M/WBE), and to continually release a responsible budget that shields classrooms from state funding decreases.

Competition and transparency have remained guiding principles to M-DCPS when it comes to providing a quality education to our students so in an attempt to further those principles I move that we examine how the district offers contract renewals to our vendors. It is common practice to award contracts that have built in contract extensions so that M-DCPS may capitalize on a particular price. Because the School Board awards these contracts initially they do not come up for School Board approval at the time of renewal. The renewals are simply executed without any information on the decision to renew transmitted to the School Board.

This may impede on M/WBE's ability to compete. Many of M/WBEs are small businesses that take time to grow into a business that can compete in an open bid process; but they are some what locked out when vendors are given two to three, one year extensions in their award contracts. Therefore the reasoning behind decisions by M-DCPS to extend or expand contracts should be operationalized into a monthly report and made available to the School Board. That report should include price implications, a determination of need from the requestor's office, and a record of M/WBE participation.

ACTION PROPOSED BY

DR. DOROTHY BENDROSS-MINDINGALL: That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, direct the Superintendent to amend School Board Policy 6320 to require a monthly report that would include price implications, requestor needs, and a record of M/WBE participation on contract renewals to be presented at the July 2012 School Board meetings and every month following.