

Dr. Lawrence S. Feldman, Board Member

**SUBJECT: PROCUREMENT PROCESS**

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

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

Through both Board-initiated action and District initiatives, Miami-Dade County Public Schools (M-DCPS) has proactively sought to address instances of weakness and flaw in ethics issues and, specifically, in the area of conflict of interest. Strong directives, programs and policies are in place to curtail instances where conflicts of interest may lead to possible abuse or personal gain. The School Board Attorney's office has played a vital role in vetting candidates to School Board sanctioned committees to avoid issues in this area while the School Board has labored to achieve transparency and trust in the community.

However, more can be done to address the transparency of contracting vendor's relationship to School Board committees, tasks force, and/or associations. Currently, officers/directors of contracting vendors are not vetted for conflict of interest in this area. Ensuring that this oversight in vetting conflict of interests is addressed through an additional step in the procurement process will protect the Board's interest and strengthen ethical business practices.

This item seeks to implement the M-DCPS Audit Department's recent June 2013 recommendation that, *"The District develop and implement a process in its procurement process to require that officers/directors of contracting vendors make full disclosure of their relationship with any district committees, tasks force, or associations. This disclosure should be used to monitor whether an individual is complying with the District's conflict of interest policy."*

**ACTION PROPOSED BY**

**DR. LAWRENCE S. FELDMAN:**

That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, direct the Superintendent to initiate a review of the current procurement process and to implement procedures aimed at requiring officers/directors of contracting vendors make full disclosure of their relationship with any district committees, tasks force, or associations to ensure that all individuals are complying with the District's conflict of interest policy.

**Replacement  
H-13**

