

Dr. Dorothy Bendross-Mindingall, Board Member

**SUBJECT: LOBBYING**

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

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

The School Board of Miami-Dade County recently received a draft of a disparity study commissioned to cover Miami-Dade County Public Schools' (M-DCPS) capital construction program. In this report, the authors commend M-DCPS on their effort to increase inclusion, but suggest that there is still more work to do before the district reaches parity in construction contracting. In its recent efforts, M-DCPS has managed to award contracts under the auspices of its new Small/Micro Business Enterprise Program, negotiate Minority/Women Business Enterprise goals on construction projects, and through an intense outreach campaign the Office of Economic Opportunity of M-DCPS is now becoming as familiar as the nightly news with the Miami-Dade County business community.

Currently School Board Policy 8150: *Lobbyists* defines lobbying as communicating with members of the School Board and district staff for the purpose of doing business with the school district. Firms who do not have a registered lobbyist speaking on their behalf cannot address the School Board at public meetings in consequence of this policy. While most firms hire lobbyists to provide them access, the smallest firms build these relationships themselves and they are often burdened by the registration fee; especially Micro Business Enterprises (MBE) which are firms that meet a lower revenue threshold than Small Business Enterprises (SBE).

In an effort to continue the free flow of access, information, and opportunity to businesses throughout Miami-Dade County this item asks the School Board to direct the Superintendent of Schools and the School Board Attorney to explore ways to further delineate the difference between lobbyist and citizen actions concerning communication in order to alleviate this hindrance.

**ACTION PROPOSED BY**

**DR. DOROTHY BENDROSS MINDINGALL:**

That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, direct the Superintendent and the School Board Attorney to explore ways to further delineate the difference between lobbyist and citizen actions concerning communication.

**Replacement**

**H-20**

**(Withdrawn - - 02/12/2014)**