

Office of Superintendent of Schools  
Board Meeting of November 18, 2020

November 5, 2020

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

**SUBJECT: MIAMI-DADE COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD v. BLUCHER MENELAS,  
DOAH Case No. 19-6566TTS**

On November 20, 2019, the School Board took action to suspend without pay and initiate dismissal proceedings against Respondent Blucher Menelas, ("Respondent"), a Teacher, for just cause, including but not limited to misconduct in office; and violation of School Board Policies 3210, *Standards of Ethical Conduct*; 3210.01, *Code of Ethics* and 5630, *Corporal Punishment and Use of Reasonable Force* in accordance with §§ 1001.32(2), 1012.22(1)(f), 1012.33; 447.209, Fla. Stat.; and State Board Rules 6A-5.056 and 6A-10.081, FAC. Respondent timely requested an administrative hearing. The final hearing was held on June 5, 2020, before Administrative Law (ALJ) Judge John G. Van Laningham.

By Recommended Order entered on August 28, 2020, the ALJ recommended that the School Board enter a Final Order exonerating Respondent of the charges and awarding him back-pay. Exceptions to the Recommended Order were timely filed by the Superintendent on September 14, 2020. Pursuant to § 120.569(2)(l), Florida Statutes, the Board must hold a quasi-judicial proceeding to hear the Exceptions and must render a Final Order within ninety (90) days of the receipt of the Recommended Order. As such, the Exceptions hearing was expected to be held at this Board meeting. Due to the Covid-19 pandemic and other matters beyond the parties' control, this item is presented to request that the exceptions hearing be continued until the January 2021, regular Board meeting. This extension of time will not prejudice either of the parties. The Motion for Extension of Time, along with any response filed by the Respondent will be forwarded to the School Board members under separate cover.

**RECOMMENDED:** That School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida extend the time to conduct a hearing on the Superintendent's Exceptions in the case of The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida v. Blucher Menelas, DOAH Case No. 19-6566TTS until the January 2021 regular School Board meeting.

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