

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 Judge John G. Van Laningham.

By Recommended Order entered on August 28, 2020, the Administrative Law Judge recommended that the School Board enter a Final Order exonerating Respondent of all charges brought against him and reinstating him to his pre-dismissal position awarding him backpay.

Exceptions to the Recommended Order were timely filed by the Superintendent. Those Exceptions were the subsequently amended. The Amended Exceptions, along with the Recommended Order, the Respondent's Response to the Superintendent's Exceptions and a complete record of the case, will be forwarded to the School Board members under separate cover. The Amended Exceptions seek to have the Administrative Law Judge's Recommended Order rejected and to reinstate Respondent without backpay.

RECOMMENDED: That School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida take one of the following actions in the case of The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida v. Blucher Menelas, DOAH Case No. 19-6566TTS.

- (1) Adopt the Recommended Order of the Administrative Law Judge in its entirety as its Final Order; or
- (2) Adopt the Amended Exceptions to the Recommended Order filed by the Superintendent and enter a Final Order consistent with those Exceptions