Office of Superintendent of Schools
Board Meeting of July 11, 2001

July 10, 2001

Deputy Superintendent of Schools
Henry C. Fraind

SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR CONFIRMATION OF THE SUPERINTENDENT'S
           EXTENSION OF THE CONTRACT WITH THE LAW FIRM OF
           GREENBERG TRAURIG FROM JULY 1, 2002 TO JUNE 30, 2002

The nature of the work programs and activities of the Office of Legislative and Labor Relations require the use of specialized legal services for labor law related legal proceedings and day-to-day legal advice and counsel.

To date, the Board has utilized such specialized legal counsel only on a case-by-case basis. Most recently, attorney's associated with the law firm of Greenberg Traurig were employed to represent the Board in a complex and protracted arbitration case that included appeals before the Eleventh Circuit Court, Third District Court of Appeals, and the Florida Supreme Court.

Increased litigation is expected, given an increase in the number of bargaining units, representation proceedings, unfair labor practice charges, and more aggressive actions on the part of the employees and unions in asserting their contractual rights.

In order to insure that the Board is adequately represented in such legal matters, the Office of the Deputy Superintendent of Schools is recommending that the Board extend its contract with the law firm of Greenberg Traurig to represent the Board's interest in labor law related legal proceedings.

The firm profile will be forwarded to School Board Members under separate cover and will be placed on file in the Citizen Information Center and the Board Recording Secretary's office.

RECOMMENDED: That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida confirm the
                    Superintendent's extension of the contract with the law firm of
                    Greenberg Traurig, effective July 1, 2001 through June 30, 2002, to
                    represent the Board's interests in arbitration and unfair labor practice
                    proceedings, and in such other cases as may be assigned by the
                    Administrative Director of Legislative and Labor Relations, with
                    compensation not to exceed $75,000 at an hourly rate of $150 per
                    hour.

JH:jmg

Replacement

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