

Office of Superintendent of Schools  
Board Meeting of September 12, 2001

September 7, 2001

Office of School Board Attorney  
Johnny Brown, Board Attorney

**SUBJECT: SETTLEMENT OF THE FEDERAL COURT MATTER OF:  
HELENA BENITEZ v. THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FL  
UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT CASE NO.: 00-02201-Civ-MOORE**

This lawsuit was filed by the Plaintiff in the United States District Court for the Southern District of Florida on June 20, 2000, alleging sexual harassment and retaliation. The federal court scheduled trial to commence on August 27, 2001. The parties engaged in settlement discussions and a settlement has been reached for the School Board's consideration and approval. Under the terms of the settlement agreement, the School Board will pay the sum of \$30,000 to the plaintiff for the total settlement of all claims, including attorney's fees and costs. A copy of the proposed settlement agreement and a memorandum explaining the settlement terms will be submitted to the Board under separate cover.

The Office of the School Board Attorney recommends that the School Board authorize and approve the settlement of this lawsuit. The administration concurs with this recommendation.

**RECOMMENDED:** That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, authorize the Superintendent to enter into the settlement agreement in the case of Helena Benitez v. The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, U.S.D.C. Case No.: 00-02201-Civ-Moore, for the sum of \$30,000.00. The settlement will release the School Board from all claims including damages, attorneys' fees and costs.

**REPLACEMENT**

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AIS/pyc