

Merrett R. Stierheim, Superintendent

SUBJECT: REQUEST THAT THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA, AUTHORIZE THE SUPERINTENDENT TO NEGOTIATE A MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING WITH THE OFFICE OF THE FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION INSPECTOR GENERAL

The purpose and intent of this item is to request that The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, authorize the Superintendent to negotiate a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with the Florida Department of Education (DOE) Inspector General's Office providing that the DOE Inspector General's Office assign an agent to be housed within Miami-Dade County Public Schools.

Governor Jeb Bush signed into law Senate Bill 20 – E. Section 1001.20(4)(e) of that bill was created in part to require that the Department of Education establish, within the office of the Commissioner of Education, the Office of Inspector General. Specifically, this bill states:

(e) Office of Inspector General.--Organized using existing resources and funds and responsible for promoting accountability, efficiency, and effectiveness and detecting fraud and abuse within school districts, community colleges, and state universities in Florida. If the Commissioner of Education determines that a district school board or public postsecondary educational institution board is unwilling or unable to address substantiated allegations made by any person relating to waste, fraud, or financial mismanagement, the office shall conduct, coordinate, or request investigations into substantiated allegations made by any person relating to waste, fraud, or financial mismanagement within school districts, community colleges, and state universities in Florida. The office shall have access to all information and personnel necessary to perform its duties and shall have all of its current powers, duties, and responsibilities authorized in s. 20.055.

The Deputy Inspector General for the Miami-Dade County Public Schools would be selected by the Inspector General of the DOE from a list of qualified candidates recommended to the District by appropriate community agencies. Once in office, the Deputy Inspector General would function independently, with the office supported by the District.

**REPLACEMENT
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The MOU, which is to be developed in conjunction with the School Board Attorney and the Inspector General, both of whom agree in principle to proceed, providing local control is maintained, will deal with specifics to include the following: scope of authority of the Deputy Inspector General; methods of coordination with existing District offices and the State Attorney's Office; procedures for referrals and case management; initiation and implementation of a telephone hotline to receive complaints; whistleblower protection; funding sources and processes; and the term of the contract for the Deputy Inspector General.

RECOMMENDED:

That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, authorize the Superintendent of Schools to negotiate a Memorandum of Understanding with the Office of the Florida Department of Education Inspector General and submit it to the School Board for consideration and approval.