

Mr. Merrett R. Stierheim, Superintendent

**SUBJECT: RENEWAL OF STATE LEGISLATIVE CONSULTANT AGREEMENT**

**COMMITTEE: LEGISLATIVE RELATIONS, PUBLIC RELATIONS AND PERSONNEL SERVICES**

The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, currently has a state legislative consulting agreement with Ronald L. Book and Associates, Inc. (RLB&A). Pursuant to the terms of the agreement, this contract is scheduled to terminate on December 31, 2003. The current contract includes a provision allowing for two successive one-year renewals under the same terms and conditions or modified terms as mutually agreed to by the Board and RLB&A.

RLB&A has indicated a willingness to renew its contract with the Board to provide lobbying services for an additional one-year period, commencing January 1, 2004 through December 31, 2004, for a total amount of \$365,000 paid in 12 equal installments of \$30,416.66, an increase of \$70,000. The proposed amount is inclusive of all costs and fees, including travel and expenses.

The 2003 legislative session and subsequent special sessions proved to be the most challenging in years. Miami-Dade County Public Schools was faced with many critical issues, including threats to the District Cost Differential and continued assaults on other areas of education funding. It is expected that the upcoming 2004 session will be just as challenging, with education and other issues competing for limited state revenues. Therefore, the work of the legislative lobbying team will continue to be of critical importance to the interests of this district.

After reviewing the services provided by RLB&A, the results achieved, and a survey of the issues on the legislative horizon, it is recommended that the Board exercise its first option to renew its contract with RLB&A, providing for an increase in fees of \$70,000, for a total of \$365,000 for the period from January 1, 2004 through December 31, 2004. All other terms and conditions will remain unchanged.

**REPLACEMENT**  
**A-3**

**RECOMMENDED:**

That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida:

1. renew the existing State Legislative Consultant Agreement with Ronald L. Book and Associates, Inc., for the first of two successive one-year terms commencing January 1, 2004 through December 31, 2004; and
2. increase the consulting fee by \$70,000, for a total amount not to exceed \$365,000.

MRS/AMC:nt