

Office of Superintendent of Schools  
Board Meeting of June 13, 2007

May 25, 2007

Office of School Board Attorney  
JulieAnn Rico, Board Attorney

**SUBJECT: THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA v. ERIC COOPER - DOAH CASE NO. 06-3043**

On August 2, 2006, the School Board suspended Eric Cooper and initiated dismissal proceedings against him for just cause, including, but not limited to willful neglect of duty; deficient performance of job responsibilities; and violation of School Board Rules 6Gx13- 4A-1.21, *Responsibilities and Duties*; 6Gx13-4A-1.213, *Code of Ethics*, and 6Gx13- 4E-1.01, *Absences and Leaves*, in accordance with sections 1001.32(2), 1012.22(1)(f), 1012.40, 1012.67 and 447.209, Florida Statutes (2006) and the DCSMEC contract. A hearing was requested and held on November 9, 2006, before Administrative Law Judge Robert Meale in Miami-Dade County, Florida.

By Recommended Order entered April 2, 2007, the Administrative Law Judge recommended that the School Board enter a final order terminating Eric Cooper's employment.

Exceptions to the Recommended Order were filed by the Respondent. Those exceptions, along with the Recommended Order and a complete record of the case, have been forwarded to the School Board members under separate cover. The exceptions seek to have the Administrative Law Judge's Recommended Order rejected and thereby reinstate Respondent to his job position as a Journeyperson (Mason).

**RECOMMENDED:** That The 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. Eric Cooper - DOAH Case No. 06-3043:

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

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