

Office of School Board Attorney
JulieAnn Rico, Board Attorney

SUBJECT: REQUEST AUTHORIZATION TO PURSUE THE RECAPTURE OF FUNDS MISAPPROPRIATED BY EMPLOYEES AND VENDORS

After an extensive and thorough investigation by Schools Police and the State Attorney's office, an employee in the District's department of Furniture Fixtures & Equipment, surrendered to authorities and was charged with second-degree grand theft, unlawful compensation and official misconduct. While criminal charges have not been filed against the vendors who participated in this illegal activity, seizure warrants were issued and the bank accounts of the vendors and the employee have been frozen.

To protect the Board's interest, the Board Attorney seeks authorization to take the necessary action to recover any and all funds illegally obtained. The Board Attorney further seeks authority to cooperate with the State Attorney's Office with respect to any plea deals, and to take any other action necessary to protect the Board's interest with regard thereto.

RECOMMENDED: That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, authorize the Board Attorney or her designee to take the following action:

- (1) Initiate necessary legal action(s) to recover funds that were illegally misappropriated by M-DCPS employees and third parties, and to take any other appropriate action to protect the Board's interest; and
- (2) Cooperate with the State Attorney's Office and provide input regarding any further prosecutions or plea deals.

**REPLACEMENT
G-7**