

Ms. Perla Tabares Hantman, Vice Chair

**SUBJECT: AUTHORIZATION FOR AN INDEPENDENT COMPREHENSIVE REVIEW OF THE BUSINESS OPERATING SOLUTIONS FOR SCHOOLS/ENTERPRISE RESOURCE PLANNING (BOSS/ERP)**

**COMMITTEE: INNOVATION, EFFICIENCY AND GOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS**

**LINK TO DISTRICT STRATEGIC PLAN: IMPROVE FINANCIAL SERVICES**

The Enterprise Resource Planning concept (ERP) was initially approved by the School Board in December, 2005, as part of the District's Information Technology Blueprint. On July 11, 2007, the Board formally approved the ERP and funding was authorized in the amount of 85.4 million dollars. The ERP concept was determined to be necessary in order to integrate and update outdated and inadequate school district technology.

In December, 2007, the ERP was officially renamed BOSS, the Business Operating Solutions for Schools. BOSS has been moving forward in the vision and design phases of the project, with intended releases of three component phases: 1) finance in January 2009; 2) Human Resources and Payroll; and 3) Procurement, both respectively to be completed in July 2009. However, at the June 25, 2008 Special School Board meeting, the Superintendent recommended and the School Board approved, delaying the release of the financial phase to a time to be determined in the future in order to save the district two million dollars in light of the district's financial shortfall. To date, the school system has spent approximately thirty two million dollars on this project, and there are growing concerns associated with the district's ability to complete the BOSS integration because of the continuing financial crisis and the uncertainty of completing BOSS within the budget authorized by the School Board.

Moreover, at the December 11, 2007 School Board Audit Committee, the school district's external auditors, Ernst and Young, LLP, recommended that the district secure additional independent project monitoring services for BOSS. Responses to the request for proposals for such services have now been determined to range from two to 2.9 million dollars and the Superintendent has recommended rejecting those proposals and revising the scope of services. At such a time of financial uncertainty, it is prudent for the school district to step back and evaluate the efficacy of continuing forward with an enterprise resource planning technology in order to ensure the scope and financial feasibility for moving forward with BOSS.

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For these reasons, this agenda item proposes requesting an independent review and evaluation of BOSS to determine whether it is adequately meeting the district's needs, including the goals, timeline, financing, sequencing and scope of the project and the efficacy for moving forward with the BOSS initiative at this time in view of the financial instability of the district.

Recognizing the urgency associated with this issue, the most expedient procurement process should be used in the selection of the independent entity tasked with this review and evaluation.

**ACTION PROPOSED BY VICE CHAIR  
PERLA TABARES HANTMAN:**

That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida approve an independent review and evaluation of BOSS to be conducted by experts in the field to determine whether it is adequately meeting the district's needs, including the goals, timeline, financing, sequencing and scope of the project and the efficacy for moving forward with the initiative and, that the most expedient procurement process be used in the selection of the entity tasked with this responsibility.