

Mr. Agustin Barrera, Chair

**SUBJECT: RECEIVE REPORT OF OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL -
EMPLOYMENT AGREEMENT OF JULIEANN RICO, SCHOOL BOARD
ATTORNEY**

**LINK TO DISTRICT
STRATEGIC PLAN: IMPROVE TRANSPARENCY OF DECISION-MAKING
THROUGHOUT THE SCHOOL DISTRICT**

On June 15, 2008, the School Board Attorney was placed on administrative leave with pay until the investigation by the Miami-Dade County Public Schools' Office of the Inspector General on the payment to the School Board Attorney of a relocation fee was completed. The Inspector General submitted his Final Report on this matter on July 29, 2008.

The Inspector General's Final Report, which consists of 13 pages plus attachments, concluded that the School Board Attorney accepted a relocation fee on the belief that said fee was not conditional upon her permanently moving to Miami-Dade County. The Inspector General also found that ". . . it is equally clear that the Board's intent to have Ms. Rico move to Miami-Dade County within the first year of her employment was poorly drafted in the contract language." As such, the report concludes that based on a review of the facts, the intent of the Board was the apparently the opposite: to make the payment conditional on her moving to Miami-Dade County.

The Final Report recommended that the School Board Attorney "either repay or make some other arrangements with the Board." However, as the Report notes, prior to the report being issued, the School Board Attorney repaid \$15,000.00 to the school district. The report concludes further that "while this report provides factual findings, and our deductive conclusions derived from these facts, this report should not be considered a legal opinion or a legal analysis of the contractual rights between the parties." Accordingly, it is now appropriate for the Board to receive the Final Report of the Inspector General in this matter and to take appropriate action to resolve the pending issue of having placed the School Board Attorney on administrative leave.

This item does not appear in the regular agenda. There is good cause to vary from the published agenda because the Final Report of the Inspector General was issued after the Agenda was published and in order to protect the interests of all concerned this matter should be addressed at the next School Board meeting of August 4, 2008.

**GOOD CAUSE
07/31/2008
H-15**

ACTION PROPOSED BY

MR. AGUSTIN J. BARRERA, CHAIR: That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, receive the Inspector General's Final Report on the Employment Agreement of the School Board Attorney, and take appropriate action to resolve the pending issue of having placed the Board Attorney on administrative leave.