

Office of Public Relations  
John J. Schuster, Chief Communications Officer

**SUBJECT:           REQUEST AUTHORIZATION TO EXPLORE NEW SOURCES OF REVENUE AT WLRN AND NEGOTIATE RETENTION OF SERVICES OF THE LAW FIRM OF LEIBOWITZ AND ASSOCIATES, P. A. FOR REPRESENTATION OF THE BOARD IN MATTERS RELATED TO WLRN**

**COMMITTEE:       INSTRUCTIONAL   EXCELLENCE    AND   COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT**

As a responsible steward of public funds, The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, has an ongoing opportunity to explore potential revenue-producing activities presented by District facilities. This practice has proved beneficial to the School Board in the past, for example, with the lease of the excess capacity of WLRN's educational broadband system to Clearwire Spectrum Holdings II, Inc., which will provide a constant income stream to the District over the next 30 years.

New opportunities for revenue generation through WLRN's facilities have become available, including:

- exploring and negotiating the potential sale/lease back of outlying WLRN facilities;
- exploring and negotiating the leasing potential of the digital TV spectrum;
- exploring and negotiating studio and facility leases; and
- negotiating new video production agreements that would generate new funding.

These ventures could result in substantial income generation for the School Board, which would be welcome as we move through difficult economic times.

In addition, continued legal services on the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) Digital transition and the Clearwire Spectrum Holdings II, Inc., EBS lease are needed at this time.

Pursuing such revenue ventures requires specialized legal and communications expertise and guidance in order to navigate federal, state and local laws that cover this area. The law firm of Leibowitz and Associates, P.A. has represented the Board in all legal matters related to and before the FCC since November 20, 2002, including, but not limited to, the recent Clearwire EBS lease, E-rate proceedings, and the mandated switch to digital transmission.

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It is therefore requested that the School Board authorize the Superintendent to aggressively pursue new revenue opportunities available through WLRN and that the Board authorize the Superintendent to negotiate retention of the law firm of Leibowitz & Associates, P.A. for legal services in matters regarding WLRN.

No District funds will be required for these services as they will be funded through EBS lease payments and will be written into potential future contracts for other ventures, where possible.

**RECOMMENDED:**

That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, authorize the Superintendent to:

1. aggressively explore new sources of revenue available through the facilities of WLRN and
2. negotiate retention of the law firm of Leibowitz & Associates, P.A. for legal services in matters regarding WLRN.