

Office of School Board Attorney
Luis M. Garcia, Interim School Board Attorney

SUBJECT: PROVISION OF LEGAL REPRESENTATION TO INDIVIDUALLY NAMED CO-DEFENDANT IN THE MATTER OF: JUSTIN KOREN v. MIAMI-DADE COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD AND DEBORAH LEAL, CIRCUIT COURT CASE NO. 09-40760-CA-02

The above-referenced lawsuit was filed in Miami-Dade County Circuit Court and served June 1, 2009 on Co-Defendant, Deborah Leal, principal at Southwood Middle School. Although the School Board is also named as a Defendant in the lawsuit, as of this date, it has not been served with the lawsuit. The Co-Defendant has submitted her suit papers to the School Board Attorney's office with the request that the School Board provide her with legal counsel in this case. The lawsuit asserts claims for, among other things, false light, violation of free speech, and seeks injunctive relief.

The acts alleged in the Complaint to have been committed by the Co-Defendant arose out of and in the course of the performance of her assigned duties and responsibilities as a school principal. Pursuant to School Board Rule 6Gx13-1C-1.02, *Legal Services for Employees of the Board*, and the authority granted under § 1012.26, Fla. Stat. (2008), we are requesting that the School Board authorize the provision of legal representation for the individually named Co-Defendant in this lawsuit. In the interim, any necessary documents will be filed with the Court, on behalf of Co-Defendant Leal, to protect her legal interests.

RECOMMENDED: That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, authorize the office of the School Board Attorney to provide or secure legal representation for the defense of Principal, Deborah Leal, in the case of Justin Koren v. Miami-Dade County School Board and Deborah Leal, Circuit Court Case No. 09-40760-CA-02.