

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

SUBJECT: REQUEST AUTHORIZATION TO INCREASE THE RETAINER OF LEIBOWITZ AND ASSOCIATES, P.A. FOR LEGAL SERVICES RELATED TO WLRN AND MATTERS BEFORE THE FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

COMMITTEE: INSTRUCTIONAL EXCELLENCE AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

On November 20, 2002, the Board entered into an agreement with the law firm of Leibowitz and Associates, P.A. to represent the Board in all legal matters related to and before the Federal Communications Commission (FCC).

Since 2004, the telecommunications industry has undergone radical change. Not since the 1950s has this country seen such an infusion of new technologies. The district's television and radio stations have transitioned to digital broadcasting and the digitization of district's Educational Broadband Service spectrum is underway; making M-DCPS South Florida's largest public media conglomerate and the leading provider of educational public media services to our diverse community.

Managing the district's media properties requires specialized legal and communications expertise and guidance in order to navigate and prosper from the ever changing federal, state and local laws governing public media.

It is therefore requested that the School Board authorize continued retention of the law firm of Leibowitz & Associates, P.A. for legal services in matters regarding WLRN with a budget not to exceed \$150,000, payable at the rates approved by the Board on November 20, 2002.

These services will be funded through the Educational Broadband Service 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 an increase in the payment to Leibowitz and Associates, P .A. for legal services related to WLRN and matters before the Federal Communications Commission, in an amount not to exceed a total of \$150,000 annually; payable at the rates approved by the Board on November 20, 2002.