

Office of School Board Attorney
Walter J. Harvey, Board Attorney

**SUBJECT: AUTHORIZATION TO NEGOTIATE AND EXECUTE
PROPOSED CONTRACT WITH NEOLA, INC., FOR
SCHOOL BOARD RULES REVISION PROJECT**

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

**LINK TO DISTRICT
STRATEGIC
FRAMEWORK: SCHOOL/DISTRICT LEADERSHIP**

In 2003, the Florida Legislature revised the Florida Education Code which changed Florida's education laws both substantively and technically. Since that time, whenever the School Board has approved new rules or rule amendments, those rules have been updated to conform to the new Code. However, a majority of the current School Board Rules have not yet been updated. In addition, Section 120.74, Fla. Stat., requires School Boards to annually "review and revise its rules as often as necessary to ensure that its rules are correct and comply with statutory requirements..." The School Board must:

- (a) identify and correct deficiencies in its rules;
- (b) clarify and simplify its rules;
- (c) delete obsolete or unnecessary rules; and
- (d) delete rules that are redundant of statutes.

The School Board has emphasized on numerous occasions, most recently in a March 25, 2009 Board Meeting Agenda Item H-20 ("Status of Rules Revision Project"), the importance of revising and updating the over five hundred (500) School Board Rules. This revision and updating is required to ensure that rules are current and provide effective governance for the School Board and the school system. The Item passed 8-0.

To obtain the Board's objective, this item requests authorization to negotiate and execute a contract with the Northeast Ohio Learning Associates, Inc. (NEOLA) to assist the School Board Attorney to completely review and revise all of the School Board Rules within the next two years. The company was founded in the 1970's and currently serves School Boards in Florida, Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Ohio, West Virginia, and Wisconsin. In Florida, NEOLA has assisted the School Boards of Alachua, Brevard,

Collier, Hillsborough, Martin, Monroe, Pasco, and Pinellas Counties in completely revising and updating their School Board Rules. The company principals include former school board members, superintendents and other school district administrators.

Pursuant to the proposed contract, NEOLA will offer policy and rule templates to the District staff team. The District will then determine whether current rules should be retained, replaced by NEOLA's templates or combined with NEOLA's language to create a new rule or policy that is unique to the District. NEOLA will also facilitate School Board workshops prior to any rule revisions being placed on the Board's agenda.

The proposed contract proposes 120 hours of on-site consultation to facilitate the District's efforts to complete the rules. NEOLA will also perform the back office work in producing the new rules and posting them to the website. The proposed contract amount is \$89,000, payable over four years, plus expenses. Payments will be made only upon specified deliverables as provided in the proposed contract. The contract may be terminated at any time by either party. In that event, the School Board will own the product produced as of the date of termination.

The proposed contract will be provided under separate cover.

RECOMMENDED: That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, authorize the School Board Attorney's Office to negotiate and execute a contract with the Northeast Ohio Learning Associates, Inc., to assist the School Board in revising and updating the School Board Rules in compliance with Section 120.74, Fla. Stat.