

Office of the School Board Members
Board Meeting of April 13, 2011

April 12, 2011

Mr. Carlos L. Curbelo, Board Member

SUBJECT: REQUEST THAT THE SCHOOL BOARD DIRECT THE SCHOOL BOARD ATTORNEY TO RENEGOTIATE THE INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE SCHOOL BOARD AND MIAMI-DADE COUNTY FOR THE PROVISION OF INSPECTOR GENERAL SERVICES IN ORDER TO ENSURE FAIR COMPENSATION FOR SERVICES RENDERED

COMMITTEE: INNOVATION, EFFICIENCY AND GOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS

LINK TO STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK: FINANCIAL EFFICIENCY/STABILITY

In December of 2007, The School Board of Miami-Dade County and Miami-Dade County entered into an Interlocal Agreement ("ILA"), which designated Miami-Dade County's Office of the Inspector General (OIG) to serve as the Inspector General for the school district. Under the ILA, the OIG is charged with the responsibility to independently audit and investigate school district practices and operations to, among other things, prevent and detect fraud, waste and mismanagement.

Under the ILA, the School Board is required to reimburse Miami-Dade County for any and all costs and expenses incurred by the OIG and its employees in rendering services to the school district in furtherance of its responsibility under the ILA. These costs and expenses routinely include individual OIG employees' direct hourly salary as established by Miami-Dade County, along with fringe and other payroll benefits, and applicable County OIG office overhead.

Consequently, as a result of pay raises and increases to fringe benefits that were received by Miami-Dade County OIG employees and that were approved by Miami-Dade County, the hourly rates for OIG employees deployed to render services to the school district under the ILA have increased. These increases in salary are inconsistent with the current District administration's human resource compensation and procurement policies. Due to the fiscal crisis prevalent throughout the nation which has adversely impacted our school district, hiring and salary freezes have been implemented by Miami Dade County Public Schools, and our employees have faced salary reductions while the specter of possible layoffs linger. In addition, the District has implemented a practice of strongly encouraging and requesting that vendors doing business with M-DCPS reduce charges and rates for services rendered to the school district.

Accordingly, vendors doing business with M-DCPS should be considered and treated under the same policies and standards. Given the current financial climate, this requires adherence to the guiding principle of shared sacrifice. Raises in salary and benefits awarded to OIG employees that are paid through M-DCPS are inconsistent with this standard.

**Good Cause
H-25**

This item is presented for the Board's consideration to request that the School Board Attorney begin negotiations with the Miami-Dade County to modify the ILA in order to reduce costs and expenses for services provided under the ILA, as discussed herein. The specific provisions that should be renegotiated are contained in section 7(c) of the ILA.

This item does not appear in the published Agenda. There exists good cause to vary from the published agenda, since OIG services to the District are ongoing and the associated invoices for these services are pending and therefore the School Board should commence the negotiation process to amend the ILA as soon as possible for the purpose of obtaining a reduction in the costs of services.

**ACTION PROPOSED BY
MR. CARLOS L. CURBELO:**

That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, direct the School Board Attorney to immediately take action to renegotiate the terms contained in section 7(c) entitled "Compensation for County OIG services," of the Interlocal Agreement between the School Board and Miami-Dade County for the provision of Inspector General Services, in order to establish a compensation schedule that is consistent with the general policies and standards currently in place at Miami-Dade County Public Schools and report back to the Board the progress of such negotiations at the next board meeting.