

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

SUBJECT: THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA v. KIARA HIGGS- DOAH CASE NO. 11-2082

On April 13, 2011, the School Board suspended Kiara Higgs, a Teacher, and initiated dismissal proceedings against her for just cause, including, but not limited to violation of School Board Rule 6Gx13- 4A-1.21, *Responsibilities and Duties* and 6Gx13-4A-1.213, *Code of Ethics*, in accordance with sections 1001.32(2), 1012.22(1)(f), 1012.33(1)(a) and (6)(a), and 447.209, Florida Statutes and the United Teachers of Dade collective bargaining agreement. The Respondent timely requested a hearing, and on September 9, 2011, a hearing was held before Administrative Law Judge Stuart M. Lerner ("ALJ") of the Division of Administrative Hearings ("DOAH").

At the conclusion of the case, the ALJ submitted an Order finding that the School Board established just cause for discipline against Ms. Higgs for violation of the above-referenced rules and recommended that the School Board suspend Ms. Higgs without pay for the remainder of the 2011-2012 school year.

We recommend acceptance of the ALJ's Recommended Order as the School Board's Final Order.

A copy of the Recommended Order is being furnished to the Board under separate cover with a copy of the proposed Final Order for the Board's consideration.

RECOMMENDED: That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida enter a Final Order accepting the Administrative Law Judge's Recommended Order in the case of The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida v. Kiara Higgs, DOAH Case No. 11-2082 sustaining the discipline of Respondent with a suspension without pay and suspending Respondent without pay for the 2011-2012 academic year.