

Financial Services  
Richard H. Hinds, Chief Financial Officer

**SUBJECT:                   REQUEST FOR AUTHORIZATION TO TERMINATE THE DISTRICT'S EMPLOYEE TRANSPORTATION BENEFITS AND RIDESHARE PROGRAM IN PARTNERSHIP WITH MIAMI-DADE TRANSIT AND SOUTH FLORIDA COMMUTER SERVICES**

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

**LINK TO STRATEGIC       FINANCIAL EFFICENCY/STABILITY FRAMEWORK:**

At the School Board meeting of July 12, 2006, the Board directed the Superintendent implement an Employee Transportation Benefits and Rideshare Program on a voluntary basis for interested employees including implementation of the Miami-Dade Transit (MDT) monthly Metropass and parking pass permits to be offered on a pre-tax monthly payroll deduction basis. This action occurred following the Board's passing Agenda Item B-7, wherein the action proposed was for the Superintendent of Schools to evaluate implementation of a transportation benefit program. The program became effective in August, 2007.

Currently, there are 36 District employees enrolled in the program. For the past five years, the program has been met with limited interest from District employees, and has created administrative challenges due to the fact employees can opt-in or opt-out of the program at will, which creates payroll deduction issues, especially for 10-month employees who do not have deductions over the summer. Additionally, prices for MDT monthly Metropass have increased from \$65 (discounted from \$75) to \$85 (discounted from \$90) and monthly prices for MDT parking permits have increased from \$4 (discounted from \$6.25) to \$10. Employees who signed up for the passes were provided the Metropass and were mailed monthly parking permits.

On April 2, 2012, staff from the Office of Risk and Benefits Management received a letter from MDT informing the District that in order to comply with the existing fare structure resolution approved by the Miami-Dade County Board of County Commissioners, District employees would have to begin paying \$90 per monthly pass and \$10 for a parking permit, effective August 1, 2012, and were no longer eligible for the discounted \$85 rate due to the fact that the District has less than the 100 employee minimum enrolled to be eligible for the discounted rate.

Additionally MDT would no longer mail parking passes to enrolled employees and moving forward they would have to either pick up the parking passes at MDT's Pass Sales Office, or the District would need to provide prepaid FedEx or UPS shipping labels, at the District's expense, to mail the passes to employees prior to the end of each month.

As a result of these changes requiring additional District expense and staff time, and the fact that only 36 employees are currently taking advantage of the program, staff is recommending that the program be terminated effective August 1, 2012. Employees who are enrolled in the program will be notified individually as to how they can continue to purchase passes directly through MDT.

**RECOMMENDED:**

That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, direct the Superintendent of Schools to terminate the Employee Transportation Benefits and Rideshare Program through Miami-Dade Transit (MDT) effective August 1, 2012, with currently enrolled employees being notified individually as to how they can continue to purchase a Metropass and parking passes directly from MDT.

RHH:sbc