

José F. Montes de Oca, Chief Auditor  
Office of Management and Compliance Audits

**SUBJECT: INVESTIGATION OF ALLEGATIONS CONCERNING ACADEMY OF ARTS  
AND MINDS CHARTER HIGH SCHOOL**

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

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

In May 2011, the administration of Miami-Dade County Public Schools (M-DCPS) received a written complaint signed by six members of the Academy of Arts and Minds Charter School (the School) PTSA Executive Board and six other concerned parents of students at the School. Upon receipt of the complaint by the administration of M-DCPS, it was forwarded to the Office of Management and Compliance Audits (OMCA) and the Office of the Inspector General (OIG) with a formal request for an investigation. In lieu of conducting its own investigation, the OIG referred the complaint to the M-DCPS Police and communicated the same to OMCA. At its September 2011 meeting, the School Board's Audit and Budget Advisory Committee (ABAC) approved the conduct of an investigation into the complaints allegations as part of OMCA's 2011-12 Annual Audit Plan. The School Board also approved the Audit Plan at its October 2011 meeting.

Our investigation found the four fundamental allegations referenced in the complaint to be largely substantiated. We also discovered that a founding Board member of the School, who served as a voting member of the non-profit School Governing Board from its inception through 2006, has been the controlling force behind the School's policies and major operational decisions and actions. The School Governing Board, rather than having been appropriately engaged, informed, independent and accountable to its students, parents/guardians and the community at large, has been perfunctory and subservient. Our report contains seven recommendations, five of which are primarily directed to the Board and management of the School, and two of which are for consideration by M-DCPS.

The School Board Audit and Budget Advisory Committee (ABAC) reviewed this report at its June 26, 2012, meeting and unanimously approved that the recommendations by the Chief Auditor's office be sent on to the School Board with the recommendation that they be adopted. The ABAC's motion noted that the administration of the School concurred with the report's recommendations. Additionally, the School administration will report back to the ABAC as to the status of implementation of the recommendations pertaining to it, at the September 2012 meeting. The School Board Attorney will interact with the School administration and receive assistance from the Chief Auditor's Office, to proffer an opinion as to whether or not the School violated any laws.

Copies of this report were previously distributed and placed on file in the Office of the Recording Secretary to the School Board and in the Citizen Information Center. Additional copies will be provided upon request.

**RECOMMENDED:** That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, receive and file the Investigation of Allegations Concerning Academy of Arts and Minds Charter High School.