

Financial Services  
Richard H. Hinds, Chief Financial Officer

**SUBJECT: AUTHORIZATION TO ADVERTISE PROPOSED MILLAGE LEVIES FOR FY 2014-15**

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

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

Florida Statutes require that the Superintendent submit a tentative budget and millage levy recommendation to the Board no later than 24 days after certification of the tax roll or by July 24, 2014.

Statutes also prescribe that each school board shall advertise its intent to adopt a tentative budget and millage levy within 29 days of certification of the tax roll or by July 29, 2014. No less than 2 days or more than 5 days after posting the advertisement, the District shall hold a public hearing on the tentative budget and millage levy. The School Board must advise the property appraiser of its proposed millage rates within 35 days of certification of the roll (July 1, 2014) or by August 4, 2014.

Due to these requirements, as well as the Board meeting dates, the following schedule was developed:

<u>Date</u>	<u>Event</u>
July 16	Board authorizes Superintendent to advertise proposed millage levies.
21	Advertisement appears in newspaper of general circulation.
24	First Public Budget Hearing. Board tentatively adopts millage levies and budget (6:00 p.m.).
25	Proposed millage levies sent to property appraiser.

The budget cycle culminates with a second public budget hearing and final adoption on September 3, 2014.

The millage levy for Required Local Effort is determined by the Florida Department of Education and certified by the Commissioner no later than July 18, 2014. The District also levies Discretionary Operating, Capital Outlay, and Debt Service millage rates, all permitted under current state law. The Debt Service levy is only that which is required to service the District's outstanding bond series.

While final millage rates will not be known until after the District receives the certified Required Local Effort from the Commissioner, **the advertised FY 2014-15 total millage levy will be less than the FY 2013-14 total millage levy.**

Board authorization to advertise the tentative budget does not represent tentative adoption by the Board. This requested Board authorization only determines the information as to millage levy, tentative budget, and list of capital projects funded by the Capital Millage Levy which will be included in the advertisement. The official millage levies and the tentative budget will not be voted on by the Board until July 24, 2014.

The Board, **by law**, may not authorize a millage levy higher than that which is advertised and/or tentatively adopted, unless it later informs every taxpayer by mailed notice of the higher rate. The only exception is that the Board may administratively adjust the millage without notifying each taxpayer only if the non-exempt property tax roll changes by 1% or more from the roll certified by the Property Appraiser on July 1, 2014.

**RECOMMENDED:** That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, authorize the Superintendent to advertise a 2014-15 Total Millage Levy that is less than the 2013-14 Final Total Millage Levy.