

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

**SUBJECT: AUTHORIZATION FOR THE SCHOOL BOARD ATTORNEY
TO RETAIN PUBLIC PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP LEGAL
COUNSEL**

**COMMITTEE: INNOVATION, GOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS, AND
COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT**

**STRATEGIC
PILLAR: EFFECTIVE AND SUSTAINABLE BUSINESS PRACTICES**

The School Board has authorized the Superintendent to explore the benefits of several public private partnerships (PPP), including the development of the Board's downtown property and a soccer stadium. In addition, state law encourages the use of PPPs as an efficient, innovative, and cost-effective method of constructing public facilities that the Board may take advantage of for future projects. This item requests that the Board authorize the School Board Attorney to retain legal counsel with special expertise and experience handling these kinds of complex projects to provide the necessary legal assistance and representation.

In July, 2015, the School Board Attorney's Office (SBAO) requested proposals from qualified law firms to provide these legal services. Seven (7) firms responded. After thorough consideration, a team including representation from the SBAO, the Superintendent's Office, and the Facilities Department, agreed that the most qualified law firms were Greenberg Traurig, PA, and Holland & Knight, LLP. The proposed compensation for both firms is a blended rate of \$425 per hour for both partners and associates.

Authorization is therefore requested to retain these two law firms. Firm profiles will be provided under separate cover.

RECOMMENDED: That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, authorize the School Board Attorney to retain Greenberg Traurig and Holland & Knight to provide legal assistance and to represent the School Board in developing public private partnerships and to be compensated at a blended rate of \$425 per hour for partners and associates.