

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**

**LINK TO
STRATEGIC
BLUEPRINT: EFFECTIVE & SUSTAINABLE BUSINESS PRACTICES**

The School Board has authorized the Superintendent to explore the benefits of several public private partnerships (PPP), including the Board's downtown properties and the Design and Architecture Senior High School ("DASH") projects. 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, recommended the selection of the law firm Holland & Knight, LLP. The proposed compensation is a blended rate of \$394 per hour for both partners and associates. Another very qualified firm, Greenberg Traurig, already has an existing agreement with the Board at the same rates.

Authorization is therefore requested to retain Holland & Knight, LLP. The firm's profile and designated attorneys will be provided under separate cover. All fees and related expenditures, pursuant to the retention agreement, will be within **established budgets, and in accordance with Board-approved guidelines.**

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RECOMMENDED:

That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, authorize the School Board Attorney to retain Holland & Knight, LLP to provide legal assistance and to represent the School Board in developing public private partnerships and to be compensated at a blended rate of \$394 per hour for partners and associates. All attorney's fees and related expenditures under for these matters will be within established budgets, and in accordance with Board-approved guidelines.

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