

Ms. Lubby Navarro, Board Member

SUBJECT: STATE LEGISLATIVE LOBBYING CONTRACTS

COMMITTEE: INNOVATION, GOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS & COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

LINK TO STRATEGIC BLUEPRINT: INFORMED, ENGAGED AND EMPOWERED STAKEHOLDERS

In 2014, the School Board of Miami-Dade County approved an item awarding three contracts to firms designated to support the Board's State Legislative lobbying efforts in Tallahassee. These contracts have a term of agreement of three years with an expiration date of November 18, 2017 and have the possibility of two one year extensions.

As the 2018 State Legislative Session is scheduled to commence on January 9, 2018, Miami-Dade County Public Schools and public education in Florida are facing many challenges at the State Legislative level, therefore it is imperative that the District and Board consider additional support of lobbying efforts, as it is necessary from time to time to be poised in the most favorable position to advocate our Legislative Priorities with the newly elected Leadership in Tallahassee.

On October 10, 2017, The Florida House of Representatives formally announced that State Representative Jose R. Oliva of District 110, from Miami Lakes, Florida, was selected as the Speaker Designate and would serve as the incoming Speaker of the Florida House of Representatives for the upcoming 2019-2020 term, which is slated to begin in November 2018. This significant announcement is of utmost honor and importance to our community, which has not had a House Speaker in over a decade, as it has been 12 years since U.S. Senator Marco Rubio held the position. Additionally, in the Florida Senate, Senator Bill Galvano of District 21 of Manatee County, was officially designated as the incoming Senate President for the same 2019-2020 term.

Due to the significant changes in leadership in Tallahassee and the continual major issues facing public education in Florida and issues specific to Miami-Dade County Public Schools, it is critically essential that we seek additional state lobbying team members specifically aligned to leadership in both Chambers of the Florida Legislature.

This item seeks to direct the Superintendent to provide the Board with any recommendations on additional State Legislative lobbying team members and bring back any contracts for additional lobbyists to work in conjunction with the three Board approved legislative lobbying firms by no later than the December 6, 2017 School Board Meeting.

The School Board Attorney's Office has reviewed and approved the item for legal sufficiency.

ACTION PROPOSED BY LUBBY NAVARRO:

That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, direct the Superintendent to provide the Board with any recommendations on additional State Legislative lobbying team members and bring back any contracts for additional lobbyists to work in conjunction with the three Board approved legislative lobbying firms by no later than the December 6, 2017 School Board Meeting.