

Ms. Maria Teresa Rojas, Board Member

**SUBJECT: ESTABLISHMENT OF SCHOOL BOARD TASK FORCE TO DEVELOP OR UPDATE PROCEDURES IN THE EVENT OF A VACANCY FOR THE SELECTION OF THOSE EMPLOYEES WHO REPORT TO THE SCHOOL BOARD**

**COMMITTEE: PERSONNEL, STUDENT, SCHOOL & COMMUNITY SUPPORT**

**LINK TO STRATEGIC BLUEPRINT: HIGHLY EFFECTIVE TEACHERS, LEADERS, AND STAFF**

Florida Statute 1001.461 states that “pursuant to the provisions of s. 5, Art. IX of the State Constitution, the district school superintendent shall be appointed by the district school board in a school district.” School Board policy 0132 states that “Pursuant to State law, the School Board exercises its executive power through the appointment of the Superintendent, legal counsel, Chief Auditor, and Inspector General.” The Board is also authorized to enter into a contract of employment to be negotiated with the candidate and set his or her salary, as appropriate and approved by the Board.

Currently, Board Policy 6840 – *Audit and Budget Advisory Committee* includes language for the committee to make recommendations to the Board on the person to fill the position of Chief Auditor. It further states that “At the request of the Board, the committee will provide recommendations on the contractual provisions for the position of Chief Auditor. Prior to negotiation of the employment contract, the Board shall conduct a workshop to provide guidance to the Board’s designated negotiator.” School Board Policy 0156 - *Legal Counsel* – states “The Board has sole authority to determine the process and appointment of the Board Attorney, as well as the terms of the Board Attorney’s employment contract.” Finally, School Board Policy 0157 *Inspector General* – clearly delineates the selection and qualifications of the inspector general and the members of the selection committee and the Board’s authority to select a candidate.

The School Board has been proactively supporting the development of procedures and programs by the Superintendent of Schools, the School Board Attorney, and the Chief Auditor for succession management as a number of individuals in key positions in Miami-Dade County Public Schools (M-DCPS) will be leaving within the next two to three years. The Board further approved Board Policy – 1130.02 – *Succession Management* at its meeting of August 15, 2018. Hence, it is important for the Board to develop a plan of action and/or potential procedures for the three positions that report directly to the School Board in the event of their departure from the school district. The Board may also wish to review the current procedures for the selection of the Chief Auditor and the Inspector General as outlined in Board policy.

Therefore, this agenda item seeks the authority of the School Board to establish a task force of five School Board members who will review, analyze, and prepare recommendations to the entire Board for the development of procedures and/or a plan of action for the selection of the Superintendent of Schools, the School Board Attorney, and review current guidelines, as outlined in Board Policy 6840 and 0157, for the selection of the Chief Auditor and the Inspector General.

The task force should be comprised of five Board members, all meetings will be in accordance with Florida Statute Chapter 286 – Sunshine Law, and update reports should be provided to the Board with recommendations and different alternatives for the selection of the Superintendent of Schools and the School Board Attorney. Board members may volunteer to serve as members of this task force and the School Board Chair will have the discretion to appoint the members in the event that more than five members volunteer.

This item has been reviewed and approved by the School Board Attorney's office as to form and legal sufficiency.

**ACTION PROPOSED BY**

**MS. MARIA TERESA ROJAS:** That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida:

1. authorize the establishment of a five-member School Board task force to develop procedures and recommendations for the selection of the Superintendent of Schools and the School Board Attorney;
2. authorize the task force to review Board policies 6840 and 0157 and make recommendations for possible amendments or the maintenance of current procedures for the selection of the Chief Auditor and the Inspector General;
3. provide the opportunity for School Board Members to volunteer to serve as members of the task force;
4. authorize the School Board Chair to finalize the membership of the task force;
5. initiate the first task force meeting, pursuant to Florida Statute Chapter 286 – *Sunshine Law*, by February 14, 2020, and provide the Board with update reports, as appropriate; and
6. authorize the School Board Chair to implement the Board-approved procedures for the selection of those employees who report to the Board, in the event of a vacancy, pursuant to final Board action.