

Office of Superintendent of Schools
Board Meeting of June 22, 2022

June 8, 2022

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

**SUBJECT: REQUEST BOARD AUTHORIZATION TO INITIATE A
 LAWSUIT AGAINST STOBS BROS. CONSTRUCTION
 COMPANY**

On or about July 11, 2007, the School Board entered into a contract with Stobs Bros. Construction Company (“Stobs”), whereby Stobs as the Construction Manager agreed to perform construction work in accordance with Project No. A01122 at D.A. Dorsey Educational Center (“Dorsey”). Part of this project included the installation of certain suspended light fixtures. A certificate of occupancy for the project was issued on September 7, 2012.

In August of 2021, several of the light fixtures that were installed as part of the project suddenly detached from the ceiling and crashed on the ground. Information available to the District indicates that the collapse was caused by Stobs’ defective and improper installation of anchoring for each of the light fixtures. These anchors are not visible due to its location in the drop ceiling, rendering the defective installation a latent defect that could not otherwise have been discovered until the collapse occurred.

Since the incident involving the defectively installed light fixtures, the School Board Attorney’s Office has been attempting to recover from Stobs damages resulting from the collapse. However, negotiations with the contractor have thus far been unsuccessful. As a result, the Board Attorney requests that the School Board authorize the initiation of a lawsuit against Stobs to recover damages resulting from the collapse.

RECOMMENDED: That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, authorize the School Board Attorney—for the reasons delineated in this item—to initiate a lawsuit against Stobs Bros. Construction, Company in the Circuit Court of the Eleventh Judicial Circuit, in and for Miami-Dade County, Florida in relation to work performed on Project No. A01122 at D.A. Dorsey Educational Center.

G-1