

Office of Superintendent of Schools
Board Meeting of August 16, 2023

August 2, 2023

Office of General Counsel
Walter J. Harvey, General Counsel

**SUBJECT: MIAMI-DADE COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD v. PATRICIA LAUTER,
DOAH Case No. 23-0404TTS**

On January 18, 2023, the School Board took action to suspend Respondent, Patricia Lauter, without pay for thirty (30) workdays for just cause including but not limited to misconduct in office; violation of School Board Policies 3210, *Standards of Ethical Conduct*, 3210.01, *Code of Ethics*, and 3213, *Student Supervision and Welfare*, in accordance with §1001.32(2), 1012.22(1)(f), 1012.33, 447.209, Florida Statutes and State Board Rules 6A-5.056 and 6A-10.081, F.A.C. The conduct that was the basis for the suspension was Respondent's involvement in dispensing natural dietary supplements to students without parental authority. Respondent timely requested an administrative hearing, which was held on May 22, 2023, before Administrative Law ("ALJ") Judge Todd Resavage of the Division of Administrative Hearings ("DOAH").

On July 6, 2023, the ALJ issued his Recommended Order. The ALJ determined that Respondent's actions did not constitute Misconduct in Office and found no just cause for discipline. The ALJ recommended the School Board enter a Final Order dismissing the complaint and issuing her backpay for thirty (30) workdays.

We recommend that the School Board accept the ALJ's Recommended Order as its Final Order and award Respondent thirty (30) workdays of backpay. Administration is in agreement with this recommendation. A copy of the Recommended Order is being furnished to the Board under separate cover along with a copy of the proposed Final Order for the Board's consideration.

RECOMMENDED: That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida adopt the Recommended Order of the Administrative Law Judge in its entirety as its Final Order in the case of Miami-Dade County School Board v. Patricia Lauter, DOAH Case No. 23-0404TTS, and dismiss the complaint and issue Respondent backpay for thirty (30) workdays.

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