

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

August 2, 2023

Office of the General Counsel
Walter J. Harvey, General Counsel

**SUBJECT: MIAMI-DADE COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD v. BEATRIZ MEJIA
DOAH Case No. 23-001634TTS**

On April 19, 2023, the School Board took action to suspend Respondent, Beatriz Mejia, without pay and initiate dismissal proceedings against her for just cause including, but not limited to, Misconduct in Office; Gross Insubordination; and violation of School Board Policies 3121.01, *Employment Standards and Fingerprinting of All Employees*, 3210, *Standards of Ethical Conduct*, and 3210.01, *Code of Ethics*, in accordance with §§ 1001.32(2), 1012.22(1)(f), 1012.33; 435.04, 435.06 and 447.209, Florida Statutes. The incident that formed the basis for Respondent's dismissal was her arrest for petit theft and possession of a controlled substance and the accompanying criminal case.

Respondent timely requested an administrative hearing before the Division of Administrative Hearings ("DOAH"). Since that time the criminal case has been dismissed. As such the just cause for Respondent's dismissal from employment no longer exists.

Prior to the hearing the parties reached a proposed settlement of the matter. The proposed settlement provides that the Respondent shall be returned to work with backpay from the date the criminal case was resolved to the date of reinstatement. The settlement of this matter will obviate the need for further litigation and is in the best interests of the Board. Administration is in agreement with the proposed settlement. A copy of the Settlement Agreement will be provided to the Board under separate cover.

RECOMMENDED: That the School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida approve the proposed Settlement Agreement in the case of The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida v. Beatriz Mejia, DOAH Case No. 23-001634TTS, and issuing the Respondent back pay from the date that her criminal case was dismissed to the date of her reinstatement on August 17, 2023.

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