

June 8, 2023

Office of Superintendent of Schools  
Board Meeting of June 21, 2023

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

**SUBJECT: PROVISION OF LEGAL REPRESENTATION FOR THE FOLLOWING MATTERS:**

**Kerlin Joseph vs. Howard M. Heyliger, Miami Dade County, Miami Dade County Schools, and Miami-Dade Schools Police, Eleventh Judicial Circuit Court of Florida, Case No. 23-011772-CA-01**

**Yoandri Alfonso vs. Steven Canela, Miami Dade County School Board, and Miami Dade County Board of County Commissioners, Case No. 23-011367-CA-01**

On April 21, 2023, the School Board was served with the complaint in *Joseph v. Heyliger, et. al.*, and on May 4, 2023, the School Board was served with the complaint in *Alfonso v. Canela, et al.* Both complaints allege negligence stemming from motor vehicle accidents involving the plaintiffs and Miami-Dade Schools Police Department (M-DSPD) Officers. The acts alleged in the complaints arose out of and in the course of the performance of the employees' assigned duties and responsibilities as Officers for the M-DSPD.

In accordance with the District's established practice, the current and former employees individually named as Defendants in these lawsuits have formally requested that the School Board provide them with legal representation. Pursuant to School Board Policy 6900, *Legal Services for Employees of the Board*, and § 1012.26, Fla. Stat. (2022), the Office of the General Counsel (OGC) requests that the School Board authorize the provision of legal representation for these current and former employees. In the interim, the OGC will be filing the necessary documents with the Court to protect the employees' and the School Board's legal interests. Should the School Board's interests conflict with those of the employees, separate legal representation will be sought on their behalf.

**RECOMMENDED:** That the School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, authorize the Office of the General Counsel to provide or secure legal representation for the legal defense of the current and former employees individually named as Defendants in the cases of *Kerlin Joseph vs. Howard M. Heyliger, et al.*, Case No. 23-011772-CA-01, and *Yoandri Alfonso vs. Steven Canela, et al.*, Case No. 23-011367-CA-01, respectively.

**G-9**