

Dr. Marta Pérez, Board Member

SUBJECT: REDUCTIONS OF SCHOOL BOARD ATTORNEY'S OFFICE

**COMMITTEE: INSTRUCTIONAL EXCELLENCE AND COMMUNITY
ENGAGEMENT**

**LINK TO DISTRICT
STRATEGIC PLAN: IMPROVE FINANCIAL HEALTH OF THE DISTRICT**

The School district is currently facing a severe budget crisis, resulting in the Superintendent declaring a state of financial urgency, postponing or eliminating teacher raises and all other raises, bringing forward a reduction in force and other cost saving initiatives. Similarly, the School Board members have reduced their budgets by ten percent. At this time, it is necessary to consider even further cost-saving initiatives including reducing the budget of the School Board Attorney's Office.

At present, the Board Attorney has vacant unfilled attorney positions as well as support staff positions. Further, the office has increased the salaries of the Assistant Board attorneys and support staff salaries significantly since November, 2005. This item recommends that all vacant, unfilled positions be eliminated immediately and the cost-saving be restored to the general operating budget of the District and further recommends that the Board Attorney's in-house budget be reduced by ten percent for the upcoming fiscal year 2008-2009. Additionally, this item recommends that no raises be given to any employee of the Attorney's Office until such time as the state of financial urgency is lifted and all other employees of the District receive a cost of living increase. Thereafter, if teachers and other employees receive raises, the raises for the School Board Attorneys should not exceed the percentage received by the teachers.

ACTION PROPOSED BY

DR. MARTA PÉREZ: That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, direct the School Board Attorney to:

1. eliminate all vacant, unfilled positions immediately and restore the dollars to the general operating fund of the District;
2. reduce the Board Attorney's office budget for fiscal year 2008-09 by ten percent;
3. Provide no raises to the Board Attorneys until such a time as the state of financial urgency is lifted and all other employees of the District receive a cost of living increase; and
4. limit all raises to not exceed the percentage raise given to District teachers.