

MEMORANDUM

April 14, 2011

TO: The Honorable Chair and Members of The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida

FROM: Alberto M. Carvalho, Superintendent of Schools



SUBJECT: LEGISLATIVE UPDATE – SCHOOL BOARD GOVERNANCE

This morning SB 778, filed by Senator Diaz de la Portilla, pertaining to the governance structure of school districts with a population of more than 2 million was heard in the Senate Education Pre-K-12 Committee, and passed by a vote of 3-2. In an unprecedented maneuver by Senate leadership, the Majority Leader, Senator Gardiner, was brought in to encourage the members to vote in favor of the bill and break the tie vote that would have defeated the bill. Unfortunately, Senator Bullard was not in attendance due to health reasons; had Senator Bullard been able to attend, the bill would have died 3-3 even with the Majority Leader's presence. Voting in support of the bill were: Senators Alexander, Benacquisto, and Gardiner; and voting in opposition were: Senators Montford and Wise. Immediately upon completion of the vote and the bill being recorded as passed, both Senators Alexander and Gardiner left the committee.

Presently, CS/CS/HB 307 is on Second Reading Calendar pending placement on the Special Order Calendar by the Rules Committee in the House in order to be heard on the floor of the House.

On another matter of importance to the Board, SB 2172 limiting school board members salaries was defeated and reported unfavorable.

If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact Ms. Iraida R. Mendez-Cartaya, Assistant Superintendent, Office of Intergovernmental Affairs, Grants Administration, and Community Engagement, at 305-995-1497.

AMC:lbd
M1016

cc: School Board Attorney
Superintendent's Cabinet