

MEMORANDUM

November 29, 2016

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

FROM: Alberto M. Carvalho, Superintendent of Schools *Amc*

SUBJECT: LEGISLATIVE UPDATE – FLORIDA LEGISLATURE ORGANIZES

The Florida House and Senate held their respective organization sessions on November 22, 2016. Each installed new leaders, swore in members, and officially named presiding officers. The chambers adopted new rules governing motions, debate, voting, and ethics. The House passed sweeping change to require specific appropriation requests be filed as stand-alone bills.

The Senate formally named Senator Negron as Senate President for the next two legislative sessions. He provided insight into his priorities by advocating change to the juvenile justice system, discharge elimination from Lake Okeechobee, and higher education reform.

House Speaker Corcoran spearheaded major reforms with the passage of new House rules that require lobbyists to file electronic disclosures on what specific issues they are lobbying for or against. House members will also be required to file a substantive bill for specific budget requests. The latter is a departure from the budget process that has historically allowed members to work with the Appropriations Committee chairs to insert spending projects. This new rule does not exist in the Senate and could lead to a contentious budget conference session later in the spring.

Miami-Dade Delegation

The Miami-Dade delegation, which now includes 13 Democrats and 11 Republicans, re-elected Representative Jose Felix Diaz as Delegation Chair and Representative Kionne McGhee as Vice Chair. Several Miami-Dade legislators hold key leadership positions in the House and Senate:

- Senator Anitere Flores appointed Senate President Pro Tempore;
- Senator Oscar Braynon elected as the Minority Leader;
- Representative Carlos Trujillo appointed as Chair of the Appropriations Committee;
- Representative Jeanette Nunez appointed as Speaker Pro Tempore, a top Corcoran lieutenant;
- Representative Jose Oliva, slated to become Florida House Speaker in 2018, appointed as Chair of the Rules & Policy Committee;
- Representative Jose Felix Diaz appointed as Chair of the Commerce Committee; and
- Representative Michael Bileca appointed as Chair of the Education Committee.

Upcoming Events

- Florida School Board Association 71st Annual Joint Conference — November 29, 2016 - December 2, 2016
- Greater Florida Consortium of School Boards — November 30, 2016
- Board's Advocacy Trip — February 22, 2017
- 2017 Legislative Session Start — March 7, 2017
- Miami-Dade County Days in Tallahassee — April 5 - 6, 2017

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

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cc: School Board Attorney
Superintendent's Cabinet