

2025

Annual REPORT

**OFFICE OF THE INSPECTOR GENERAL
MIAMI-DADE COUNTY
PUBLIC SCHOOLS**



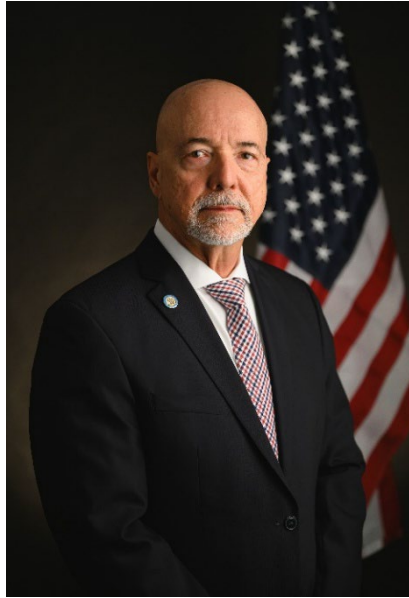
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A MESSAGE FROM YOUR INSPECTOR GENERAL



To the Chair and Members of the School Board of Miami-Dade County, Miami-Dade County Public Schools (M-DCPS) Administration and employees, M-DCPS families, and residents of Miami-Dade County, pursuant to the Inter-local Agreement between the School Board and Miami-Dade County, I am pleased to present the enclosed Annual Report which provides a summary of investigations, reviews, and other oversight matters conducted by the M-DCPS OIG during Fiscal Year 2025.

This annual report provides information about our office, its makeup, and the intake and disposition process of complaints. Featured in this report are both administrative and criminal cases regarding allegations of payroll fraud, voter registration irregularities, misappropriation of donated items, and improper procurement. During this past year, we also completed a review of purchasing procedures and P-card expenditures

resulting in the modernization and improvement of processes. The OIG also provided contract oversight for the solicitation process of the Program Management Support Services contract. As a follow up to the arrest of a travel services vendor charged with bid tampering, reported in our 2024 Annual Report, the OIG presented its findings to the Contractor Disciplinary Review Committee resulting in the maximum debarment of the vendor for a period of three years. The OIG also opened investigations during the year, many which remain ongoing. These cases will be reported, when completed, in subsequent annual reports.

The work of the OIG is often presented to the Board through the Audit and Budget Advisory Committee and the Ethics Advisory Committee. The OIG has maintained an excellent working relationship with both committees, and we thank and recognize the valuable work that Chairmen Norwood and Slesnick and all the committee members provide in volunteering their time to the district.

I want to thank Chair Rojas, the Board Members, and Superintendent Dotres and his staff for their continued support of the OIG. I remain, as always, grateful to serve alongside my colleagues at the OIG in furtherance of our mission of detecting, investigating and preventing fraud, waste, mismanagement and abuse of power within the school district.

Sincerely,



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I. ABOUT US

The Miami-Dade County Public Schools Office of the Inspector General (M-DCPS OIG), through independent oversight of school district affairs, detects, investigates, and prevents fraud, waste, mismanagement, misconduct, and abuse of power. The organization and administration of the M-DCPS OIG is independent to assure that no interference or influence external to the Office adversely affects the objectivity of the M-DCPS OIG.

MISSION

Detecting, investigating, and preventing fraud, waste, mismanagement, and abuse of power within the school district.

INTER-LOCAL AGREEMENT

The Inter-Local Agreement (ILA) between the School Board of Miami-Dade County and Miami-Dade County, initially executed in 2007, sets forth the responsibilities, functions, authority, and jurisdiction of the M-DCPS OIG. The current agreement expires on December 18, 2025.

The M-DCPS OIG promotes accountability, integrity, and efficiency through its efforts in conducting investigations, audits, and oversight activities of school district employees, contractors, projects and programs. All case assignments are conducted with the goal of improving M-DCPS's ability to provide the highest quality education.

II. THE OIG EXECUTIVE TEAM



*(left to right) Hector Ortiz, Arleen Stanek, Felix Jimenez,
James Schlotzhauer, Marie Perikles*

Inspector General Felix Jimenez is the head of the organization. His Executive Team includes Assistant Inspector General for Investigations Hector Ortiz, General Counsel Marie Perikles, Audit Manager Arleen Stanek, and Director of Data Analytics James Schlotzhauer.

Assistant Inspector General Hector Ortiz leads the Investigations Unit. When investigations of fraud, waste, and abuse of authority reveal criminal wrongdoing, the Assistant Inspector General for Investigations coordinates with state and federal law enforcement agencies to work jointly in furtherance of a successful legal resolution.

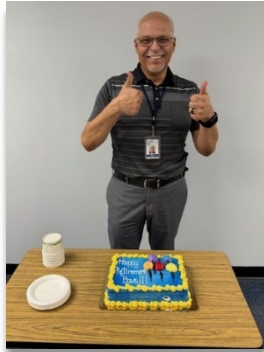
General Counsel Marie Perikles oversees the Legal Unit and five additional attorneys. The Legal Unit provides continuous support and

guidance to all OIG personnel from the moment a complaint is received to case closure, which oftentimes involves the issuance of public reports and memoranda. OIG attorneys provide counsel on jurisdictional questions and help assess the strengths and weaknesses of OIG cases for potential civil, administrative, or criminal implications.

The work of the OIG's Contract Oversight Unit includes active monitoring and random inspections of contracting and construction activities to ensure fairness in the procurement process and compliance with contract specifications. The Audit Unit, overseen by Audit Manager Arleen Stanek, consists of a team of certified professionals with a wide range of government and private sector experience. The Audit Unit frequently coordinates with the Investigations Unit and Contract Oversight Unit.

As the Director of Data Analytics, James Schlotzhauer has the primary responsibility to ensure the alignment, development, and integration of data analytics, business intelligence, and artificial intelligence necessary to support the mission, vision, strategies, objectives, and goals of the OIG. Mr. Schlotzhauer organizes and assembles resources necessary to address the current and future analytical needs of the OIG.

III. M-DCPS OIG TEAM – RETIREMENT



The M-DCPS OIG team bid farewell to Special Agent (SA) David Hernandez, who served in an investigative capacity since November 2017. SA Hernandez was more than a co-worker, he was a friend, and a consistent source of inspiration. We wish SA Hernandez all the best as he embarks on this new journey in life; the Team won't be the same without him.

Welcome to the M-DCPS OIG Team



Special Agent (SA) Mabel Lezcano joined the M-DCPS OIG on October 13, 2025. Prior to her new assignment, SA Lezcano served as a Senior Manager with Walmart Inc., Global Security and Investigations for approximately 12 years. In her capacity as Senior Manager she led investigations across Walmart and Sam's Club stores throughout the United States and Latin America. She managed complex fraud, theft, misappropriation of funds and personal conduct investigations. Prior to her career with Walmart, SA Lezcano served as a sworn Law Enforcement Officer with a distinguished career as a Special Agent/Investigator with the State of Florida Department of Law Enforcement. During her career she conducted multi-jurisdictional white-collar crime investigations, including Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organizations, credit card fraud, tax and welfare fraud, money laundering and cybercrime amongst others. Her experience will enhance the ability of our office to provide impartial and effective results. Let us all welcome Mabel Lezcano to Our Team.

M-DCPS OIG TEAM



(left to right) Archie Moore, Julie Mondragon, Tracey Skwarek, Jose Gonzalez, Mabel Lezcano, Reldys Torres

IV. OPERATING BUDGET AND STAFFING



The School Board funds the M-DCPS OIG annually to provide inspector general services to the school district. All personnel costs are funded under an annual budget allocation. For the 2024 - 2025 fiscal year, the School Board approved a \$1,219,043 budget to cover operating needs, and personnel staffing.

The M-DCPS OIG is staffed with a supervisor, four special agents, and an administrative assistant. M-DCPS OIG employees are contracted managerial

exempt personnel and serve at the will of the Inspector General, who, by virtue of the ILA between the School Board and Miami-Dade County, is the County Inspector General who will serve as the Inspector General for the School Board.

The ILA also enables County OIG staff to provide services to the M-DCPS OIG on a reimbursement basis. OIG investigative analysts provide investigative and analytical support, including intelligence gathering, to the M-DCPS OIG upon request. OIG attorneys provide legal advice and guidance in support of M-DCPS OIG investigations and operations. The Inspector General and the Assistant Inspector General of Investigations directly oversee all operations of the M-DCPS OIG.

V. COMPLAINT INTAKE AND DISPOSITION

The majority of cases opened each year stem from complaints submitted to the M-DCPS OIG by school district employees, vendors, parents, and other concerned citizens. Other cases result from ongoing investigations and audits, and some are self-initiated. We strive to provide a voice to all complainants. Complaints involving personnel matters and other similar issues, as well as matters beyond the M-DCPS OIG's jurisdiction, are referred to the appropriate parties. The M-DCPS OIG addresses every complaint, either through an investigation, audit, review, or referral.

The M-DCPS OIG receives complaints by mail, via our website, through the OIG fraud hotline, and in person. All complainants can be assured that investigators are trained to maintain the confidentiality of the information provided and ensure the confidentiality of the complainant's identity pursuant to applicable laws and policies. The M-DCPS OIG logs each complaint received, and each complaint undergoes a review process to determine jurisdiction, and the action warranted. Based on the subject matter and the specificity of the information received, some complaints will result in the M-DCPS OIG initiating an investigation, audit, or review. Other complaints may be determined to be more appropriately addressed by the M-DCPS administration

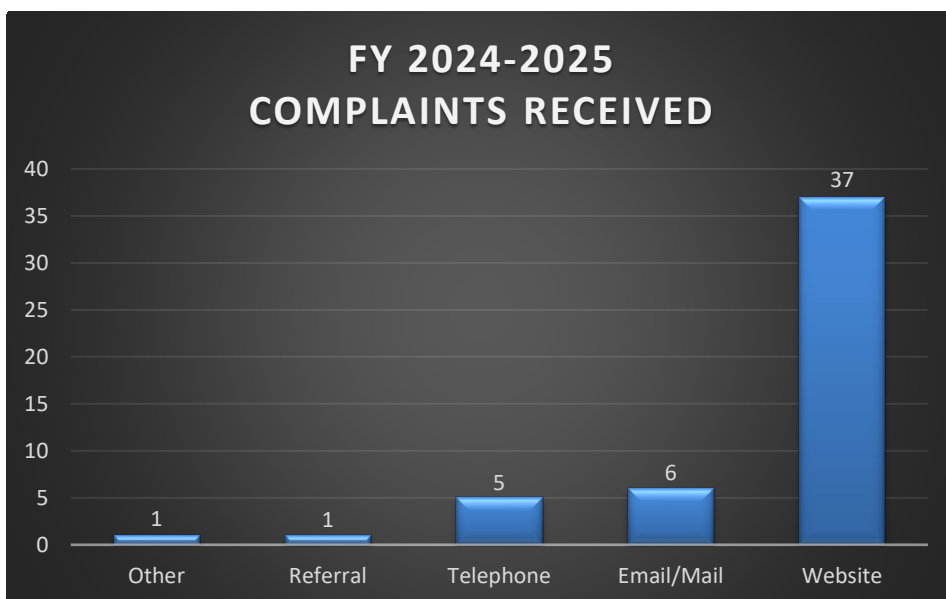
or by another governmental agency. In the case of most referrals, the receiving agency is requested to provide the M-DCPS OIG with its findings.

In accordance with Section 3(h) of the ILA, the M-DCPS OIG is the school district's designee for purposes of receiving Whistleblower Act disclosures pursuant to Florida Statutes, Section 112.3187(6). Whistleblower disclosures are those disclosures alleging violations or suspected violations of law, rule, or regulation, that endanger health and public safety or allegations of gross mismanagement, malfeasance, misfeasance, gross waste of public funds, or gross neglect of duty by persons in an agency or independent contractors.

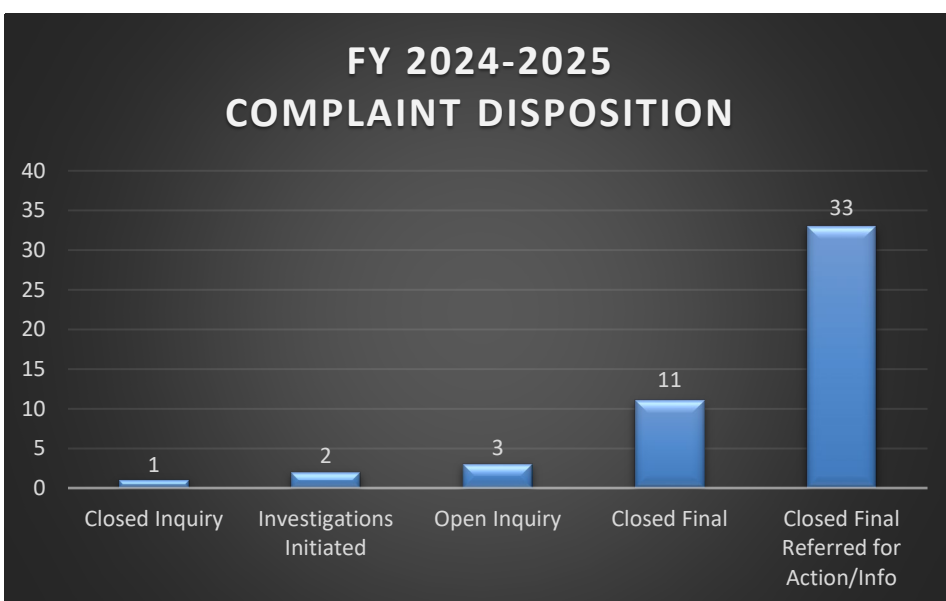
Any individual who makes such a disclosure is entitled to have his/her identity kept confidential pursuant to state law. Except for those complaints received anonymously where the complainant's identity is unknown, complainants are advised of the disposition of their complaints. The OIG does not investigate allegations of retaliation. Investigations of retaliation are conducted in accordance with the policies established by the School Board for the management of such claims. Florida law also provides civil court remedies in cases of retaliation.



The Office received 50 complaints in Fiscal Year 2024-2025 - 74% of the complaints received were submitted through our website's report fraud page: www.miamidadeig.org/inspector-general/fraud.page. The remainder of the complaints were received through a variety of means as depicted in the chart below.



Each complaint is reviewed by the Assistant Inspector General for Investigations, General Counsel, and, ultimately, the Inspector General. Of the 50 complaints received last year, 4% resulted in investigations. The remainder of the complaints were resolved in the manner depicted in the chart below.



VI. INVESTIGATIVE HIGHLIGHTS

The M-DCPS OIG conducts criminal and administrative investigations of fraud, waste, financial mismanagement, abuse, and misconduct related to M-DCPS programs, operations, contracts, and employees and promotes accountability, integrity, economy, and efficiency in government. M-DCPS OIG special agents have a wide variety of professional experience from prior positions with law enforcement and regulatory agencies. They have extensive training in white collar crime, financial fraud, and public corruption investigations. The M-DCPS OIG coordinates with the Miami-Dade State Attorney's Office, the U. S. Attorney's Office and other law enforcement authorities to leverage resources and fraud fighting efforts. Our investigations often lead to criminal cases and/or administrative reports with recommendations and monetary recoveries.

During this past fiscal year, numerous administrative investigations, reviews, and inspections were completed pertaining to allegations of fraud, waste, financial mismanagement, coercion, and misconduct. The M-DCPS OIG also opened investigations during the year that remain ongoing. These cases will be reported, when completed, in subsequent annual reports. Summaries of our completed cases follow in the next few pages.

ADMINISTRATIVE INVESTIGATIONS

Allegations of Payroll Fraud at a Middle School

The Miami-Dade County Public Schools Office of the Inspector General received a complaint, from an individual wishing to remain confidential, alleging that payroll fraud took place at a Middle School during School Year 2020-2021. The complainant made several allegations against the principal including:

- Paying certain teachers extra hourly wages on top of their supplements and salary.
- Numerous inconsistencies and disparities with the payroll including that the payroll list seemed to be written in the same handwriting.
- Placing “fake co-teachers” on the master schedule to be compliant with class size and without the knowledge of the co-teachers listed.
- Paying teachers who had no students.
- Causing a toxic work environment, giving preferential treatment to some staff members while others were afraid of retaliation.
- Telling staff they would not be given any sixth period supplements.

During this investigation, M-DCPS OIG Special Agents coordinated with M-DCPS's Office of Civil Rights Compliance, Payroll Department, and Office of Human Capital Management as well as the Foundation for New Education Initiatives, Inc. to obtain records and background information related to the complaint.

The OIG investigation determined the complainant's allegations were either unfounded or unsubstantiated and determined that M-DCPS had previously investigated and/or addressed some of the allegations prior to them being submitted to the OIG. The documentation reviewed did not identify any payroll fraud taking place at the Middle School.

Payroll and Documentation Improprieties at an M-DCPS Technical Educational Center

The investigation was initiated based on a confidential complainant's allegations that the Principal at an M-DCPS Technical Educational Center and other members of the staff committed fraud and theft. During this investigation, the OIG reviewed State of Florida Department of Education documents, conducted a detailed review of M-DCPS payroll records, studied Title I policies, and conducted numerous recorded and sworn interviews of M-DCPS employees who were assigned to the Technical Educational Center during the 2017-2018 school year, the summer of 2018, and the 2018-2019 school year.

The investigation found that, during the summer of 2018 and into the 2018-2019 school year, the principal engaged in activities contrary to M-DCPS budget and payroll protocols. Specifically, at the request of the principal, several staff members worked at the Technical Educational Center during the summer of 2018 when funds to compensate them were not budgeted. Furthermore, the principal authorized and approved staff members to submit, via the M-DCPS payroll, false entries for multiple hours of pay during the 2018-2019 school year to compensate them for their unpaid summer work.

Those actions circumvented budget controls and are contrary to the School Board's standards of ethical conduct policies requiring employees to maintain honesty and not submit fraudulent information. Although no actual theft of M-DCPS funds was committed, the method of payment utilized including the false entries undermines the integrity of M-DCPS records, budgetary, and payroll processes. Another finding centered on the principal's decision to have staff create and back-date a Title I CIS/CLS Weekly Schedule during an audit rather than advise auditors that the records had not been created contemporaneously with the work.

The principal was issued a Letter of Reprimand by an M-DCPS Disciplinary Review Team based on a review of the OIG's findings.

Unapproved Voter Registration Efforts by an M-DCPS Employee

The Miami-Dade County Public Schools Office of the Inspector General initiated an investigation regarding unauthorized voter registration activities based on a referral from the Miami-Dade Schools Police Department. The concern was that a Junior Reserve Officer's Training Corp (JROTC)

instructor at a M-DCPS Senior High School hand-delivered voter registration forms completed by students to the Miami-Dade County Elections Department (Elections Department) in contravention of the school's approved voter registration drive and without registering as a third-party voter registration agent.

The OIG investigation substantiated that the JROTC instructor did not act in compliance with M-DCPS policy and the school's approved voter registration drive. The OIG also found that the Elections Department did not report the JROTC instructor's submissions to the Florida Department of State, Division of Elections as required.

Misappropriation of Donated Property by Teacher

This investigation was initiated based on two complaints received by the M-DCPS OIG. The complaints alleged that a Middle School Teacher had misappropriated and taken home for personal use donated property that she had received from "DonorsChoose," a non-profit organization funded by donors, which provides teachers with resources for their classroom projects. The complainants, who wished to remain confidential, specifically alleged that the teacher had brought home an Apple laptop, an iPad, Oculus Virtual Reality Goggles, a drone, baseball equipment, a Lego Roller Coaster set, and an Xbox game console that were all acquired from DonorsChoose. It was alleged the items were brought home for personal use.

During the investigation, the OIG discovered that a drone the teacher had acquired from DonorsChoose in 2018 was not accounted for in the school district's property inventory system as required by M-DCPS internal accounting procedures for gifts and/or donations with a value of \$1,000.00 or greater. The value of the drone was \$1,199.00. After conducting an on-site inspection and advising the principal of the property inventory policy, the drone was entered into the property accounting system.

The OIG's investigation into removal of donated gifts from an M-DCPS school facility, without proper written approval, was substantiated. During an interview with the M-DCPS OIG, the teacher admitted taking home certain donated gifts for safekeeping or system upgrading but with the principal's verbal permission. The teacher acknowledged that the permission was not in writing, as required by Board policy, and this was confirmed by the principal. However, the principal could not remember giving the teacher permission to remove the drone from school property. All items identified during the course of this investigation were returned and accounted for.

The OIG understands the importance of the services that DonorsChoose provides to M-DCPS schools and the teaching profession by making available donated supplies and equipment items to further student educational opportunities, as well as the initiative of teachers formulating project requests for those items. The OIG believes that it is important that whenever an M-DCPS school receives these supplies, from whatever source, the supplies should be properly documented and accounted for.

Elementary School Principal Purchasing Supplies from her Family-Owned Business

This investigation was predicated on a confidential complaint alleging that an elementary school principal had purchased school supplies from her family-owned business. Specifically, the complainant alleged that the principal approved the purchase of hand sanitizer, signs, and field day T-shirts from her family-owned business, and that sometimes the purchases were made through the Parent Teacher's Association (PTA) to "avoid notice."

The OIG investigation substantiated the allegation that the principal approved purchases of hand sanitizer from her family-owned business. The allegation that the principal approved the purchase of signs and field day T-shirts from her family-owned business was unfounded. It was determined that the signs were donated, and the T-shirts were purchased by the school's PTA from another vendor.

During the investigation the OIG found that the principal approved additional purchases from her family-owned business that were not part of the initial complaint. Those purchases involved a pressure washer, Lysol wipes, youth masks, nitrile gloves, hand sanitizer and anti-bacterial soap. The OIG examined School Board policies and Florida law to determine if the purchases of supplies by the principal from her family-owned company violated M-DCPS conflict of interest provisions. Conflict of interest policies are in place to discourage the appearance of impropriety and the perception of undue influence upon M-DCPS business transactions. The purchases authorized by the principal from her family-owned business were contrary to the M-DCPS School Board Policies, although some purchases fell within exemptions provided by the policies.

In response to the investigative findings provided in the report, the following actions were taken:

- A Conference-for-the-Record was held with the principal who was issued directives.
- A Letter of Reprimand was issued to the principal.

Allegation that an M-DCPS Teacher Submitted False Information on Free and Reduced-Price Meals Applications

This investigation was predicated on a complaint alleging that an M-DCPS elementary school teacher falsified applications for free and reduced-price meal applications for her children, who attend M-DCPS district schools. The confidential complainant also alleged that the teacher had understated her income for many years on these applications and as a result, her children received free lunch and free tutoring.

The OIG investigation substantiated the allegations, but only as it applied to M-DCPS Free and Reduced-Price Meals applications for one child. It was determined that the teacher did not apply for her second child. The OIG found that the teacher failed to include her true income on the reduced-price lunch application submitted during School Year 2018-2019 and then failed to include her spouse as a member of the household and their income on the application that was submitted in School Year 2019-2020. These omissions resulted in the teacher being approved for reduced-price lunch for one child in 2018 and free lunch in 2019, for which they otherwise would not have qualified had she entered the correct income and household information on the applications.

The OIG found that the allegation that the teacher's children also received free tutoring by understating her income on the Free and Reduced-Price Meals applications was unfounded.

M-DCPS employees, in accordance with School Board Policy 3210, are expected to "conduct themselves, both in their employment and in the community, in a manner that will reflect credit upon themselves and the school system." The fundamental principles that govern M-DCPS employees include honesty. The teacher was issued and signed a Letter of Reprimand related to the violations identified during the course of this investigation.

Allegations of Improprieties by the Former District Director of the Office of Education and Economic Access

The M-DCPS OIG began this investigation predicated on a complaint alleging the former District Director of what was then called the Office of Economic Opportunity (OEO), used photographs of attendees taken at the OEO's free outreach sessions to promote his own private class, and that he charged \$50 to award M-DCPS contracts and OEO certifications.

The free outreach sessions, typically held at schools, libraries, or other available venues, were meant to educate vendors or would be vendors on available opportunities and how to navigate through the required certifications. The former District Director's responsibilities were primarily focused on the certification process.

The OIG investigation substantiated the allegation that the former District Director used a photograph of an OEO outreach session in his private business's promotional materials. However, the allegation that the former District Director charged \$50 to award M-DCPS contracts and OEO certifications was unfounded.

The investigation found that the former District Director engaged in outside employment that created the appearance of impropriety, that is, a perceived conflict with his duties to M-DCPS in violation of School Board policies. The former District Director resigned his position with M-DCPS during the investigation.

It became evident during the investigation that M-DCPS did not have a requirement (or established procedure) for requesting authorization to engage in outside employment. The OIG issued a policy recommendation for M-DCPS to consider, with the goal of identifying conflicts before they arise. The recommendation was intended to strengthen the already existing School Board policies and eliminate potential conflicts that erode trust and transparency in the actions of our public employees.

In response to the recommendation, M-DCPS proposed a policy change which was approved by the School Board at its meeting on August 12, 2025. The updated School Board Policy 1129 clarifies the responsibility of all employees to "self-report any employment or business relationship that may implicate a potential conflict of interest or other violations of Board policies." To support compliance with this policy, M-DCPS will implement new procedures to ensure transparency and accountability.

CONTRACT OVERSIGHT, REVIEWS AND INSPECTIONS

Review of Purchasing Procedures and P-card Expenditures for Current and Former School Board Members for the Period of July 1, 2018, to December 31, 2023

This review was predicated on the School Board's approval of Agenda Item H-2 (Good Cause – Revised 2), on January 17, 2024, directing the Superintendent and the Chief Auditor to support the OIG in conducting a review of P-card and Travel card expenses for former and present Board Members. The Board action was taken following the arrest of a former School Board Member charged with Organized Scheme to Defraud and Grand Theft of over \$100,000 of District funds using the District's P-card and Travel card. Agenda Item H-2, proffered by the School Board Chair and unanimously approved by the Board, reiterated Florida State Statutes and School Board policies regarding standards of ethical conduct and existing Board policies concerning the expenditure of funds and travel reimbursement procedures.

The OIG, with the financial support of the School Board, engaged an external audit firm, to conduct a review of P-cards and Travel cards issued to School Board Members for the period July 1, 2018 – December 31, 2023. The review indicated several deficiencies in areas including implementation of internal control, personnel and School Board Member training, timely reconciliation and review processes, records retention and the propriety of P-card expenditures. Additionally, the review noted deficiencies within the Purchasing Card Program Policies and Procedures Manual.

During this review, the Board Members' and the Administration's hard work and dedication to the students and this community was abundantly clear. We saw an overwhelming commitment to effect

changes to the P-card program to modernize and improve the process, many of which have already been implemented. We are also encouraged by the Administration's concurrence with the report's recommendations.

Construction Project Subcontractor Performance Bonds Inspection

This inspection was initiated to monitor M-DCPS's reconciliation of its subcontractor performance bonds expenditures under the 21st Century Schools Bond Program. The M-DCPS OIG's interest in this reconciliation was two-fold: the potential recovery of improperly expended public school funds and providing appropriate recommendations for process, program, contract, or other improvements. After five years of monitoring and collaboration, M-DCPS' reconciliation has been completed; the results have been properly reported to M-DCPS officials and stakeholders and recovered funding credits have been realized.

At the conclusion of the reconciliations and reviews, M-DCPS eliminated subcontractor performance bonds funding, improved its construction project financial closure reconciliation review process, recovered \$400,858.97 in credits, and will soon begin using CMR construction contracts with recommended document retention language revisions.

The School Board launched the 21st Century Schools Bond Program to fund improvements, renovations, and technology upgrades across the district. Established through voter approval, the program aimed to modernize facilities and provide a better learning environment for students, with an advisory committee formed to ensure transparency and accountability in the use of bond funds. The program also includes providing funds for capital equipment and other essential needs, as well as facilities, construction, and land acquisition. The OIG has closely monitored this bond program and since its inception, the Inspector General has served as an ex-officio member of the advisory committee.

Contract Oversight of a Program Management Support Services Solicitation

This request for oversight was initiated at the request of a School Board member and the Superintendent's staff, to monitor the solicitation process for the Program Management Support Services (PMSS) contract, RFQ-22-006.

The OIG determined that all phases of the solicitation, including the bid protest were completed in accordance with School Board policies and Florida Statutes. The PMSS contract was awarded and approved for a period of five years, with renewals at the School Board's option. The oversight of the PMSS contract resides with the M-DCPS Office of Facilities Design and Construction.

VII. FOLLOW UP ACTIVITIES

Conviction and Sentence of former M-DCPS Travel Management Services Vendor and Debarment of Vendor

The M-DCPS OIG conducted a joint investigation with the State Attorney's Office Public Corruption Task Force of a former travel management services vendor employee who was arrested and charged with one count of bid tampering. The vendor's employee was charged with rigging bids for student travel services by submitting fictitious bids purported to be from a competitor. The initial arrest was previously reported in the 2024 Annual Report.

On October 18, 2024, the vendor's employee was convicted of one count of Bid Tampering, a second-degree felony, in the Eleventh Judicial Circuit Court in Miami-Dade County. The vendor's employee was sentenced to two years of reporting probation. As a condition of probation, the employee was prohibited from having business dealings with M-DCPS.

While the criminal charge pertained only to the employee, the travel management services vendor went before the Contractor Disciplinary Review Committee (CDRC) on January 10, 2025. As the recommending agency, the OIG made a presentation to the CDRC with a recommendation to debar the travel management services vendor for the maximum term of three years. After a review of the submitted evidence and oral argument, the CDRC voted to debar the travel management services vendor from conducting business with M-DCPS for a period of three years, effective January 10, 2025.

VIII. AUDIT AND BUDGET ADVISORY COMMITTEE



Created by School Board Policy No. 6840, the Audit and Budget Advisory Committee (ABAC) serves as the principal advisory committee to assist the Board in fulfilling its fiduciary responsibilities on budgeting, financial reporting and accounting, and business policies and practices. ABAC members (and their alternates) are appointed by each School Board Member, the Superintendent and the President of the PTA/PTSA. There are eleven ABAC members.

The ABAC's purpose is to review and make recommendations to the School Board and Superintendent on fiscal management matters presented to the committee. The ABAC also serves as the Board's principal agent in ensuring the independence of the school district's external and internal auditors. In addition to receiving and reviewing all reports issued by the District's Office of Management and Compliance Audits, the ABAC, pursuant to Board policy, is charged with receiving and reviewing reports issued by the OIG and monitoring the corrective action taken by the District in response to the OIG's recommendations. The OIG's annual report is also presented to the ABAC.

IX. ETHICS ADVISORY COMMITTEE



The OIG attends all Ethics Advisory Committee (EAC) meetings where we present our investigative reports, reviews, and annual reports. Comprised of seven prominent community members, Chairman Donald Slesnick,

Esq.; Mr. Frank Silva, Esq.; Dr. Laura Kohn Wood; Dr. Ursula Wright; Ms. Sharon Watson, Hon. Jerald Bagley and Dr. Carmen Concepcion. The EAC is regularly attended by one or more board members (or a staff delegate), and a representative from the Office of the General Counsel.

With regard to terms of membership, Policy 0158 provides that: "The members of the Ethics Advisory Committee shall serve terms of four (4) years each. Upon expiration of said term, any member may be re-appointed to additional four (4) year terms." With respect to quorum, the Policy 0158 states that: "A minimum of four (4) voting members of the Committee shall constitute a quorum. A quorum must be present before a vote is taken on any matter appearing before the Committee."

The OIG looks forward to the continued relationship with the EAC and supports its role in helping to ensure ethical governance.

X. PROVIDING OVERSIGHT TO THE 3RD LARGEST SCHOOL DISTRICT IN THE NATION

