




**Office of the Inspector General
for Miami-Dade County Public Schools**



To: The Honorable Chairwoman, Ms. Perla Tabares Hantman
and Members, Miami-Dade School Board
Mr. Alberto M. Carvalho, Superintendent of Schools, M-DCPS

From: Patra Liu, Interim Inspector General 

Date: August 1, 2013

Re: Miami-Edison Senior High School Treasurer Pleads Guilty to Fraud Charges;
Ref: SBIG-1112-1001

Lisa Merryl Bradley (Bradley), a former 23-year employee of Miami-Dade County Public Schools (M-DCPS), plead guilty today on 88 felony charges stemming from her forgery and embezzlement of over \$160,000 in school funds. Bradley was the Treasurer at Miami-Edison Senior High School (Edison) when she was arrested in August 2011. She was charged with 1 count of Organized Scheme to Defraud, 14 counts of Forgery, 14 counts of Uttering Forged Instruments and 59 counts of Official Misconduct. The case against Bradley was investigated jointly by the Office of the Inspector General (OIG) and the State Attorney's Office. The M-DCPS Office of Management and Compliance Audits (OMCA) and the Miami-Dade Schools Police Department (M-DSPD) provided assistance during the investigation.

The OIG uncovered that Bradley was writing checks to herself from Edison's internal funds account and forging the required second signature on the checks. Bradley's scheme, as uncovered by the OIG investigation, involved an extensive cover-up. Bradley deposited the Edison checks into her personal account and created phony copies of the checks using the names and information of actual vendors doing business with Edison. Among the phony documents she created to cover up the scheme, Bradley also copied actual endorsements from legitimate Edison vendors to simulate the backs of the phony canceled checks. Unfortunately, Bradley was in the position of writing the checks, signing the checks and reconciling the checks. The absence of enforced internal controls allowed Bradley's embezzlement to go undetected for a year before the OIG investigation stopped the fraud.

Bradley was sentenced to 6 months of jail, followed by 2 years of house arrest, and 30 years of probation with the special conditions that she pay restitution and costs of investigation. Bradley made an initial lump sum payment of \$13,000 to M-DCPS. Bradley is also prohibited from public employment during the term of her sentence. Additionally, Bradley entered another guilty plea on an unrelated grand theft case that she was arrested and charged with while out on bail for the current Edison case. The OIG would like to thank M-DSPD and OMCA for their assistance and cooperation during the investigation.

cc: Chief Ian A. Moffett, Miami-Dade Schools Police Department
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