TO: Hon. Chairwoman Perla Tabares Hantman
   And Members, Miami-Dade County School Board
Alberto Carvalho, Superintendent of Schools
FROM: Mary T. Cagle, Inspector General
DATE: October 3, 2018
SUBJECT: Conviction of Jean Ridore, Former Principal of the North Miami Adult
         Education Center, Ref. SB-1314-1014

On Friday, September 28, 2018, a Miami-Dade County jury found former North Miami
Adult Education (NMAE) Center Principal Jean Ridore guilty on all counts. Ridore, who
was charged with two counts of Unlawful Compensation (second degree felonies), one
count of Official Misconduct (third degree felony), and one count of Grand Theft (third
degree felony), faces potential prison time at his sentencing, which is anticipated to be
scheduled by the end of this year.

Ridore, who was arrested in October 2015, had been facing criminal charges stemming
from a kickback—for no show employment—scheme. Based on allegations of gross
improprieties involving his official position as the principal of the NMAE Center, the Office
of the Inspector General (OIG) initiated this investigation in June 2014. The allegations
ranged from “pay to play” arrangements, ghost or no-show employees on the payroll,
employees required to “kick back” a part of their salary, to requiring that employees
perform non-school work for Mr. Ridore at his home or for his outside private business.

Upon initiating the investigation, the State Attorney’s Office Public Corruption Task Force
joined the OIG. This task force includes members of the Miami-Dade County Schools
Police and the City of Miami Police Department (Miami PD). The joint operation utilized
an undercover officer (a Miami PD detective) who paid Ridore $1,000 in order to get a job
at the NMAE Center—a job that he was not required to show up for. Ridore accepted the
cash, and later required the undercover officer to kick-back half his pay for the no-show
job. In addition to the undercover officer’s testimony at trial, the prosecution introduced
videos and tape recordings evidencing the transactions between the two. As
demonstrated in trial, Ridore, as the NMAE Center principal, had the full authority to make
hiring decisions at the school. As proved through this criminal prosecution, Ridore
illegally exploited his authority and greatly undermined the integrity and trust placed in
public officials.
The trial commenced on September 24, 2018, and concluded last Friday night (after 9:30 PM) with the jury returning a verdict of guilty on all counts. Ridore was remanded into custody and is awaiting sentencing.

cc:  Ian A. Moffett, Chief School and Safety Compliance Officer
     Chief Edwin Lopez, M-DCPS Police Department
     Walter J. Harvey, School Board Attorney, M-DCPS
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