

POLICY 6.14

4-A I recommend that the Board adopt the proposed revised Policy 6.14, entitled "Purchasing Department."

[Contact: Mike Burke, Sharon Swan, PX 48214.]

Adoption

CONSENT ITEM

- 1. This Policy was amended at the May 1, 2013 Special Meeting as follows for lines 279 through 282:
 - ii. The Superintendent's authorization to delegate purchasing authority as permitted in sections 4(d)(i)(B) or 4(d)(i)(D) above, shall be limited to \$100,000 per purchase for the Chief Operating Officer and limited to \$50,000 per purchase for the Director of Purchasing.
- 2. This Policy will become effective on July 1, 2013.

POLICY 6.14

PURCHASING DEPARTMENT

231. Purpose

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The Purpose of this Purchasing Policy is to provide for a uniform and systematic method for purchasing in an efficient, cost-effective manner in accordance with and as permitted by applicable federal and state laws, Florida State Board of Education Rules, School Board Policies, and administrative rules, procedures, and guidelines that promote transparency and accountability in the expenditure of public funds and the use of public resources. The goal of this Policy is to assist School Board members and School District of Palm Beach County employees in protecting the integrity of the contract award and procurement process, inspiring public confidence in the process used to acquire commodities and contractual services, and promoting fair, open, and non-discriminatory competition in a manner that protects the School District's assets and ensures that the School District receives the maximum value and quality when expending public dollars for a public purpose.

16 2. Applicability

17 This Policy shall govern the purchase of commodities and contractual services for 18 the School Board through the use of a competitive solicitation, where required by 19 law or as determined to be in the best interest of the School District, and purchases 20 which are specifically exempted by law from competitive solicitation, when those 21 commodities and contractual services are purchased using School Board funds. grant proceeds, or internal account funds held by individual schools. In addition, 22 the procedures set forth in this Policy, with the exception of Section 5 below, shall 23 24 apply to purchases made pursuant to Policies 7.051 and 7.10.

3. **Definitions**

- 26 a. <u>"Competitive solicitation" shall be defined to include purchases made through</u>
 27 <u>the issuance of an invitation to bid (ITB), request for proposals (RFP), or</u>
 28 invitation to negotiate (ITN).
- b. "Cone of Silence" shall refer to the period of time between the posting of the
 contents of a competitive solicitation and the posting of a Decision or Intended
 Decision with regard to that competitive solicitation.
- c. "Contract procurement process" has the same meaning as "contract solicitation or award process" as used in section 120.57(3), Florida Statutes.
 This phrase includes procurements by ITB, RFP, ITN, approval of a single source procurement, or other solicitation documents as permitted by law.

d. <u>"Decision or Intended Decision" as used in this Policy shall have the same</u> meaning as in Uniform Rule 28-110.002(2), Florida Administrative Code, and shall mean:

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- i. the notice of posting of the contents of a solicitation, including addenda;
- ii. <u>a determination that a specified procurement can be made only from a single source:</u>
 - iii. rejection of a response or all responses to a solicitation; or
 - iv. <u>intention to award a contract as indicated by a posted solicitation</u> tabulation or other written notice.
 - e. "Environmentally Preferable Purchasing" (EPP), often referred to as "green purchasing" means commodities and services that have a lesser or reduced effect or harm health and the environment when compared with competing commodities or services that serve the same purpose. EPP may be used in the selection and acquisition of commodities and contractual services when such methods are generally used throughout the industry for procuring the particular commodity or contractual service, for evaluating the product to determine if the product meets the District's needs, for educational purposes, or when it has been determined by the Director of Purchasing that EPP will provide the District with a lower cost of ownership over the life of the School Board's use of the product or service. The goal of EPP is to procure commodities and contractual services that most effectively minimize waste and negative environmental impact by evaluating criteria such as the vendor's method of manufacturing; use of recycled content; use of less harmful and non-toxic materials and processes; use of energy and water efficient products and processes; use of fuel efficient vehicles and equipment; use of natural resource and landscaping management; use of renewable products. packaging, and delivery practices; and reduces disposal cost.
 - f. In proceedings involving bid protests of a Decision or Intended Decision arising out of the contract solicitation or award process, the terms "file" or "filing" shall mean received by the Director of Purchasing during normal business hours. Filing of a notice of protest or formal written protest petition is permitted via regular US mail, hand delivery, electronic mail, or facsimile transmission. A protestor who files a notice of protest or formal petition by electronic mail or facsimile transmission represents that the original physically signed document will be mailed to the Director of Purchasing immediately upon submission of the notice of protest or formal petition via facsimile or electronic mail. Any protestor who elects to file any document by electronic mail or facsimile transmission shall be responsible for any delay, disruption, or interruption of the signals and accepts the full risk that the document may not

- be properly filed with the Director of Purchasing, as a result. The filing date for
 a document transmitted by electronic mail or facsimile shall be the date the
 Director of Purchasing receives the complete document. The bond, however,
 cannot be transmitted via electronic mail or facsimile, but must be timely filed
 with the Director of Purchasing as required by this Policy.
- g. <u>"Information technology" shall have the same meaning as set forth in section 282.0041(14), Florida Statutes.</u>

- h. "Invitation to bid" shall be defined as a written solicitation for competitive sealed bids. The invitation to bid is used when the School Board or designee is capable of specifically defining the scope of work for which a contractual service is required and/or when the School Board or designee is capable of establishing precise specifications defining the actual commodity or group of commodities required. A written solicitation includes a solicitation that is publicly posted.
- i. "Invitation to negotiate" shall be defined as a written solicitation for competitive sealed replies to select one or more vendors with which to commence negotiations for the procurement of commodities or contractual services. The invitation to negotiate is used when the School Board or designee determines that negotiations may be necessary for it to receive the best value. A written solicitation includes a solicitation that is publicly posted.
- j. "Professional Services" shall be defined, for the purpose of procuring commodities and non-construction related contractual services, to include, without limitation, artistic services; academic program reviews; lectures by individuals; auditing services not subject to section 218.391, Florida Statutes; legal services, including attorney, paralegal, expert witness, court reporting, appraisal, or mediator services; and health services involving examination, diagnosis, treatment, prevention, medical consultation, or administration. The term "Professional Services," as used in this Policy, does not include those services procured pursuant to section 287.055, Florida Statutes.
- 105 k. <u>"Proposer" includes those vendors submitting bids, proposals, or replies to a competitive solicitation.</u>
- I. "Request for proposals" shall be defined as a written solicitation for competitive sealed proposals. The request for proposals is used when it is not practicable for the School Board or designee to specifically define the scope of work for which the commodity, group of commodities, or contractual service is required; or the purchase is complex in nature and the School Board or designee is requesting that a responsive, responsible vendor offers a solution which will be evaluated by a set criteria set forth in the solicitation document. A written solicitation includes a solicitation that is publicly posted.

4. **Delegation of Authority**

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- 116 As set forth below, the School Board has delegated limited authority to the Superintendent or his/her designee, the Director of Purchasing, Department Heads 117 118 or Directors, and School Principals relating to the purchase of commodities and 119 contractual services for the School District in compliance with applicable federal and state laws, Florida State Board of Education Rules, School Board Policies, and 120 administrative rules, procedures, and guidelines. In addition, the School Board has 121 122 delegated certain authority to the Superintendent, Director of Purchasing, and the 123 General Counsel with regard to handling matters relating to Chapter 120, Florida 124 Statutes.
- Any purchases not specifically delegated to the Superintendent or his/her designee, the Purchasing Director, Department Heads or Directors, or School Principals must be approved in advance by the School Board. No person, unless specifically authorized to purchase commodities or contractual services under School Board policies, may make any purchase or enter into any contract involving the use of school or School District funds. Payment for any unauthorized purchase may be the responsibility of the person placing the order.

a. **Department Heads or Directors**

- i. Department Heads or Directors shall use bid-awarded vendors approved by the School Board or designee, where available unless otherwise approved by the Director of Purchasing. Department Heads or Directors are encouraged to purchase commodities or services from industry-certified School District Career and Professional Academies where available.
- ii. <u>Authority is delegated to the Department Head or Director of each department to purchase:</u>
 - A. <u>contractual services, including Professional Services, in an amount not to exceed five thousand dollars (\$5,000) per vendor per fiscal year per department, and</u>
 - B. commodities in an amount not to exceed one thousand dollars (\$1,000) per vendor per day or for travel as authorized by Policy 6.01 when utilizing the School District issued Purchasing Card ("P-Card"), with total monthly charges to the P-Card not exceeding the amount authorized by the Superintendent or designee. The Director of Purchasing may approve the issuance of multiple P-Cards to certain departments. Department Heads or Directors may delegate authority to use such additional P-Cards to specific users within their departments up to the limits set forth above.

153 154 155		iii.	comm	nodities	Heads or Directors may not divide the procurement of or contractual services so as to avoid the delegated eshold requirement.		
156	b.	<u>Scl</u>	hool Pr	ool Principals			
157 158 159 160 161		i.	or des of Pu service	signee, rchasin ces fron	all use bid-awarded vendors approved by the School Board where available unless otherwise approved by the Director g. Principals are encouraged to purchase commodities or industry-certified School District Career and Professional where available.		
162		ii.	<u>Autho</u>	ority is d	elegated to the Principal of each school center to purchase:		
163 164 165			<u>n</u>	not to e	ual services, including Professional Services, in an amount exceed five thousand dollars (\$5,000) per vendor per fiscal school;		
166 167 168 169 170 171 172 173			<u>V</u> <u>V</u> <u>S</u> <u>S</u> <u>S</u> <u>S</u>	\$1,000) when ut charges Superint approve Principa	dities in an amount not to exceed one thousand dollars per vendor per day or for travel as authorized by Policy 6.01 ilizing the School District issued P-Card, with total monthly to the P-Card not exceeding the amount authorized by the tendent or designee. The Director of Purchasing may the issuance of multiple P-Cards to certain Principals, and Is may delegate authority to use such additional P-Cards to users within their school centers up to the limits set forth		
175 176					al commodities and contractual services which are to be paid internal funds of the school as follows:		
177 178 179			I.		nmodities when the total amount purchased does not exceeden thousand dollars (\$15,000) per vendor per fiscal year;		
180 181			II		nmodities and contractual services, without limitation as to amount, for the following:		
182 183				a.	graduation supplies and yearbooks in accordance with Policy 6.19;		
184				b.	class pictures;		
185				C.	class rings;		
186				d.	prom;		

187			e. <u>homecoming:</u>
188			f. <u>dances;</u>
189			g. Project Graduation; and
190 191 192			h. <u>fundraising projects and activities meeting the requirements</u> of Policy 2.16 (i.e. marathon fundraisers, student sales of goods, etc.).
193 194 195 196 197 198 199 200 201		iii.	In such cases where the School Board or designee has not approved a vendor for the commodities or contractual services needed, the Principal shall make purchases exceeding five thousand dollars (\$5,000), to the extent authority has been delegated above, using a minimum of three (3) competitive quotes, when feasible except for Professional Services professional memberships, educational services, and copyrighted materials, as set forth in State Board of Education Rule 6A-1.012 or other applicable laws. The purchase shall be based upon lowest price quote or selection criteria developed by the Principal.
202 203		iv.	Principals may not divide the procurement of commodities or contractua service so as to avoid the delegated monetary threshold.
204	C.	<u>Dir</u>	ector of Purchasing
205 206 207		i.	The School Board designates the Purchasing Department as the School District's official purchasing agent, and accordingly, authority is delegated to the Director of Purchasing to:
208 209 210 211 212			A. determine the appropriate and most cost-effective purchasing method of contract procurement, including competitive solicitations direct negotiations, and/or methods that allow the School District to take advantage of value discounts and special pricing agreements where appropriate:
213 214 215			B. <u>approve the evaluation criteria for procuring commodities and contractual services, including any preference required or allowable by law or School Board policy;</u>
216 217 218 219 220 221			C. oversee the competitive solicitation process in collaboration with the School District end-user to include receiving formal information through Requests for Information when needed; create the competitive solicitation document; approve the specifications, terms and conditions, which may include using EPP methods; select members of the evaluation committee; and receive, open, tabulate

223				with the provisions of this Policy;
224			D.	receive and process any and all notices of protest and formal written
225				protests for the purpose of determining whether the notices or written
226				protests are timely and have a timely and properly posted bond;
227				hold the informal resolution meeting as required by Chapter 120,
228				Florida Statutes, dismiss any invalid bid protests as determined by
229				the Office of General Counsel; and report any valid bid protests to
230				the School Board at least quarterly:
231			E.	approve and issue purchase orders for purchases made in
232				accordance with this Policy:
233			F.	track ITB, ITN, RFPs, and other Board-awarded contracts to ensure
234				that the amount of funds encumbered by purchase orders does not
235				exceed the budgeted funds approved by the School Board;
236			G.	oversee negotiations with vendors when appropriate;
237			Н.	oversee the P-Card Program;
238			l.	provide purchasing oversight of the Supply and Redistribution
239				Warehouse and Mailroom;
240			J.	prepare and execute Certificates of Entitlements for the purpose of
241				tax savings as required by section 212.086(6), Florida Statutes and
242				Rule 12A-1.094, Florida Administrative Code; and
243			K.	approve and issue purchase orders for Direct Material Purchases for
244				the purpose of tax savings as allowed by section 212.086(6), Florida
245				Statutes and Rule 12A-1.094, Florida Administrative Code.
246		ii.		e Director of Purchasing shall provide prior notice to the Office of the
247				pector General, in writing, of any evaluation committee/team meeting
248				ere any matter relating to commodities or contractual services will be
249			<u>disc</u>	<u>cussed.</u>
250	d.	<u>Su</u>	<u>perin</u>	ntendent/Designee
251		i.	<u>Aut</u>	thority is delegated to the Superintendent or his/her designee (Chief
252			<u>Op</u>	erating Officer or Director of Purchasing only) to:
253			A.	approve purchases for departments and schools for Professional
254				Services in an amount in excess of five thousand dollars (\$5,000)
255				and up to ten thousand dollars (\$10,000);

256 257 258 259 260		B. approve purchases for commodities and contractual services, not including Professional Services, up to two hundred fifty thousand (\$250,000) per vendor per fiscal year, except where specifically set forth herein. A monthly report of such purchases must be provided to the School Board;
261 262 263 264		C. reject any or all proposals, responses, bids, or replies to any competitive solicitation and re-compete or purchase the required commodities or contractual services in any manner authorized by this Policy; and
265 266		D. <u>approve purchases of the following commodities and contractual services without limitation as to the amount:</u>
267		I. emergency purchases as defined in this Policy;
268		II. <u>regulated utilities or government-franchised services:</u>
269		III. media advertisements (newspaper, radio, television, etc.);
270		IV. <u>subscription services;</u>
271 272 273		 V. <u>professional association fees or membership dues for educational or non-profit organizations that serve the needs of the School District;</u>
274 275		VI. Florida Department of Law Enforcement for Level II screenings of employees and vendors:
276 277		VII. travel expenditures and reimbursements in compliance with Policy 6.01 and Chapter 112, Florida Statutes; and
278		VIII. <u>postage.</u>
279 280 281 282	ii.	The Superintendent's authorization to delegate purchasing authority as permitted in sections 4(d)(i)(B) or 4(d)(i)(D) above, shall be limited to \$100,000 per purchase for the Chief Operating Officer and limited to \$50,000 per purchase for the Director of Purchasing.
283 284 285	iii.	Authority is delegated to the Superintendent to handle matters relating to Chapter 120, Florida Statutes, Administrative Proceedings, including administrative hearings:
286 287		A. <u>ruling on motions to extend the deadline for filing a formal written</u> <u>protest or other petitions for administrative hearing:</u>

288				В.	referring formal written protests or other petitions for administrative
289					hearings pursuant to section 120.57(3), Florida Statutes, to the
290					Division of Administrative Hearings;
291				C.	entering orders determining whether a formal written protest, or other
292					petition for administrative hearing is timely and appropriately filed or
293					meets required pleading requirements;
294				D.	entering final orders approving or rejecting administrative actions
295					related to settlements, withdrawn petitions, voluntary case closures
296					and other undisputed procedural matters associated with the
297					initiation or closure of administrative proceedings; and
298				E.	executing final orders following School Board action.
299		e.	<u>Ge</u>	<u>neral</u>	<u>l Counsel</u>
300			i.	Διıt	hority is delegated to the General Counsel for the following matters
301			٠.		ating to Chapter 120, Florida Statutes, Administrative Proceedings
302					uding administrative hearings:
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303				A.	ruling on motions to extend the deadline for filing a formal written
304					protest or other petitions for administrative hearing:
305				B.	conducting or otherwise arrange for the conducting of informa
306					proceedings:
307				C.	referring formal written protests or other petitions for administrative
308					hearings pursuant to section 120.57(3), Florida Statutes, to the
309					Division of Administrative Hearings;
310				D.	entering orders determining whether a formal written protest, or other
311					petition for administrative hearing is timely and appropriately filed or
312					meets required pleading requirements;
313				E.	entering final orders approving or rejecting administrative actions
314					related to settlements, withdrawn petitions, voluntary case closures
315					and other undisputed procedural matters associated with the
316					initiation or closure of administrative proceedings; and
317				F.	executing final orders following School Board action.
318	5.				Methods. The School Board or its designee shall purchase
319					and contractual services as set forth below. Such purchases shall no
320					pplicable appropriation in the School Board budget for each fiscal year
321		and	the !	funds	s for such purchases shall not be otherwise encumbered.

322 a. Competitive Solicitation. The School Board or its authorized designee may
323 approve contracts resulting from competitive solicitations where required by
324 law or when in the best interest of the School District. Such contracts in excess
325 of two hundred fifty thousand dollars (\$250,000) per vendor per fiscal year
326 must be submitted to the School Board for approval.

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- i. Request for Proposals (RFP). Except as authorized by law or rule, proposals shall be requested from three (3) or more sources for commodities and contractual services exceeding the amount established in Rule 6A-1.012(7), Florida Administrative Code. The contract may not be divided so as to avoid this monetary threshold. In awarding to a Proposer pursuant to a Request for Proposals, the School Board or its authorized designee may award to one or more responsive, responsible Proposers in accordance with the selection criteria published in the Request for Proposals.
- ii. Invitation to Bid (ITB). Except as authorized by law or rule, ITBs or reverse auctioning bids shall be requested from three (3) or more sources for commodities and contractual services when requisitioning any item or group of similar items exceeding the amount established in Rule 6A-1.012(7), Florida Administrative Code. The contract may not be divided so as to avoid this monetary threshold. In acceptance of responses to ITBs or bids through reverse auctioning, the School Board or its authorized designee shall accept the lowest bid from a responsive and responsible bidder meeting all specifications, terms, and conditions published in the ITB. In the alternative, the School Board or its authorized designee may award to the responsive, responsible bidder offering the lowest cost as the primary awardee and the next responsive, responsible bidder offering the next lowest cost as an alternate awardee(s) meeting all specifications. terms, and conditions. Nothing herein is meant to prevent multiple awards to the responsive and responsible bidders when such multiple awards are clearly stated in the bid solicitation documents.
- iii. Invitation to Negotiate (ITN). When procurement for commodities and contractual services exceeding the amount established in Rule 6A-1.012(7), Florida Administrative Code, is not practicable by an ITB or an RFP, the Superintendent or his/her designee may solicit competitive sealed replies to determine the best method for achieving specific goals or solving a particular problem and select one or more vendors with which the School Board's authorized designee may negotiate a contract in order to receive the best value based upon objective factors that may include, but are not limited to, price, quality, design, and workmanship.
- b. <u>Alternate Source Contracting</u>. The School Board or its designee may purchase commodities or contractual services from contracts that have been

awarded by another governmental agency, by a group of governmental agencies, or as a participant of a group of governmental agencies as allowed by law and when in the best interest of the School District. Such contracts in excess of two hundred fifty thousand (\$250,000) per fiscal year must be submitted to the School Board for approval.

- i. Department of Management Services. As required by section 1001.42(12)(j), Florida Statutes, the School Board or its authorized designee shall receive and give consideration to the prices available to it under rules of the Department of Management Services, Division of Purchasing. The School Board or its designee may use prices established by the Division of Purchasing through its state purchasing agreement price schedule under the same conditions for use imposed on state agencies.
- ii. Other Agency or Group of Agencies. The School Board or its authorized designee may make purchases at or below the specified prices from contracts awarded by other city or county governmental agencies, other district school boards, community colleges, federal agencies, public or governmental agencies of any state, state university systems, or from cooperative, interlocal, or pooled bid agreements, when the Proposer will permit purchases by the School Board at the same terms, conditions, and prices (or below such prices) awarded in such contract, and such purchases are to the economic advantage of the School Board.
- iii. Pool Purchases. The School Board or its authorized designee may purchase school buses, equipment, and related contractual needs and supplies through the pool-purchase provisions of section 1006.27, Florida Statutes.
- iv. Purchasing Consortium. The School Board shall enter into interlocal agreements as provided in section 163.01, Florida Statutes, to establish school district consortium and maximize purchasing power for commodities and contractual services. A consortium may be nationwide, statewide, or regional as appropriate to achieve the lowest cost. The Director of Purchasing shall provide the School Board with a monthly report of any purchases made through a Purchasing Consortium.

c. **Direct Negotiation**

i. The School Board or its authorized designee may approve contracts using direct negotiations where allowed by law. The Director of Purchasing shall maintain adequate documentation commensurate with the value of the contract reflecting (a) the rationale for using direct

402		negotiation as the purchasing method and (b) the basis for determining
403		that the resulting contract is in the best interest of the District. Contracts
404		in excess of two hundred fifty thousand (\$250,000) per vendor per fiscal
405		year shall be submitted to the School Board for approval, with the
406		exception of emergency purchases which will be ratified as indicated
407		herein, and regulated utilities or government-franchised services.
408		A. Finding of No Acceptable Firm Proposal or Less than Two
409		Responsive Proposals. Where competitive solicitations have been
410		requested in the manner prescribed by this Policy, and the School
411		Board, through the Director of Purchasing, makes a specific finding
412		in writing that:
413		I. no valid or acceptable firm proposal has been received within
414		the prescribed time, the Director of Purchasing may enter into
415		negotiations with suppliers of such commodities and contractual
416		services; or
417		II. less than two responsive proposals for commodity or contractual
418		services were received, the Director of Purchasing, may
419		negotiate on the best terms and conditions or decide to reject all
420		proposals. The Director of Purchasing shall document the
421		reasons that negotiating terms and conditions with a particular
422		Proposer is in the best interest of the School District in lieu of re-
423		soliciting proposals.
424	ii.	Competitive Solicitation Waived or Not Required. As provided in Rule
425		6A-1.012, Florida Administrative Code; section 1010.04(4)(a), Florida
426		Statutes; or other laws, in addition to the methods described above, the
427		School Board or its authorized designee may purchase commodities and
428		contractual services without requesting competitive proposals, bids, or
429		replies from three or more sources, as set forth below:
430		A. Less than the amount established in Rule 6A-1.012(7), Florida
431		Administrative Code of Funds Expended. For purchases where
432		less than the amount established in Rule 6A-1.012(7), Florida
433		Administrative Code of Funds will be expended, the School Board,
434		the Superintendent or his/her designee, Department Heads or
435		Directors, and/or School Principals may make and/or approve

procedures, and guidelines; and this Policy.

purchases of the commodities and contractual services in

compliance with applicable federal and state laws; Florida Board of

Education Rules; School Board Policies; administrative rules,

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441		Competitive quotes shall be requested from three (3) or more
442		sources for commodities and contractual services wher
443		requisitioning any item or group of similar items exceeding five
444		thousand dollars (\$5,000) except as exempted by Rule 6A-1.012
445		Florida Administrative Code or other applicable laws.
446	В.	Information Technology. The School Board, when acquiring
447		whether by purchase, lease, lease with option to purchase, rental or
448		otherwise, information technology, as defined in section
449		282.0041(14), Florida Statutes, may make any acquisition through
450		the competitive solicitation process as described herein or by direct
451		negotiation and contract with a vendor or supplier, as best fits the
452		needs of the School District as determined by the Director of
453		Purchasing. The Director of Purchasing shall document in writing the
454		reasoning for concluding that direct negotiation instead or
455		competitive solicitation is in the best interest of the School District.
456	C.	Risk Management. The School Board may, except as otherwise
457	0.	required by statute, utilize the competitive solicitation process of
458		enter into direct negotiations and contract with a vendor or supplied
459		that best meets the needs of the School District when acquiring
460		insurance, entering risk management programs, or contracting with
461		third party administrators. The purchase of employee group
462		insurance must be competitively selected in accordance with section
463		112.08, Florida Statutes.
464	D.	Educational Services/Copyrighted Materials. The School Board of
465	D.	its authorized designee may purchase educational services and any
466		type of copyrighted materials including, without limitation, educational
467		tests, textbooks, printed instructional materials, computer software
468		films, filmstrips, videotapes, dvds, disc or tape recordings, digita
469		recordings, or similar audio-visual materials, library and reference
470		books, and printed library cards where such materials are purchased
470 471		directly from the producer or publisher, the owner of the copyright, ar
471 472		exclusive agent within the state, a governmental agency, or a
472 473		recognized educational institution.
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474	E.	PRIDE/RESPECT. The School Board or its authorized designee may
475		purchase commodities and contractual services from PRIDE (Prison
476		Rehabilitative Industries and Diversified Enterprises, Inc.) of
477		RESPECT (Florida's preferential purchasing program for individuals
478		with disabilities), as authorized by Florida Statutes.

F.

479 480 Regulated Utilities. The School Board or its authorized designee may purchase regulated utilities or government-franchise services.

481 G. Grant or Law. The School Board or its authorized designee may
482 enter into a contract where state or federal law, a grant, or state or
483 federal agency contract prescribes with whom the School Board
484 must contract or if the rate of payment is established during the
485 annual appropriation process.

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- H. <u>Professional Services</u>. The School Board or its authorized designee may purchase Professional Services as set forth herein.
- I. **Sole Source**. When School District's Director of Purchasing believes that commodities or contractual services are available only from a single source, the Director of Purchasing shall electronically or otherwise publicly post a description of the commodities or contractual services sought for a period of at least seven (7) business days. The description must include a request that prospective vendors provide information regarding their ability to supply the commodities or contractual services described. If it is determined in writing by the Director of Purchasing, after reviewing any information received from prospective vendors, that the commodities or contractual services are available only from a single source, the Director of Purchasing shall provide notice of the Decision or Intended Decision to enter a single source contract in the manner specified in section 120.57(3), Florida Statutes, and may negotiate on the best terms and conditions with the single source vendor.
- **Emergency Purchases**. The School Board or its designee may dispense with requirements for competitive solicitations for the emergency purchase of commodities or contractual services when the Superintendent determines in writing that an immediate danger to the public health, safety, or welfare or other substantial loss to the school district requires emergency action. After the Superintendent makes such a written determination, the Director of Purchasing may proceed with the procurement of commodities or contractual services necessitated by the immediate danger, without requesting competitive solicitations. However, such an emergency purchase shall be made by obtaining pricing information from at least two prospective vendors, which must be retained in the contract file. unless the Superintendent determines in writing that the time required to obtain pricing information will increase the immediate danger to the public health, safety, or welfare or other substantial loss to the school district. The Superintendent shall seek ratification of this purchase by the School Board at the next regularly scheduled business meeting.

522			K.	<u> F000</u>	d Service . In compliance with Rule 5P-1.003, Florida
523				<u>Adm</u>	inistrative Code and Policy 6.17, the School Board may exemp
524				food	products, except milk, from the bid requirements of Rule 6A
525				1.012	2, Florida Administrative Code. Milk may be exempt under the
526				follov	wing conditions:
527					the Superintendent or designee has made a finding that no valid
528					or acceptable firm bid has been received within the prescribed
529					time; or
530					the Superintendent or designee has made a finding that ar
531					emergency situation exists and may enter into negotiations with
532					suppliers of milk and shall have the authority to execute
533					contracts under whatever terms and conditions as the
534					Superintendent or designee determines to be in the best interes
535					of the school system.
536			L.		ntenance/Service/Warranty. The School Board or its designed
537				may	award contracts for maintenance and/or service contracts, or
538				<u>vario</u>	ous types of technical equipment, that are offered and/or supplied
539				<u>only</u>	by the original manufacturer or its representative, or that are
540				<u>requi</u>	ired to maintain the integrity of the manufacturer's warranty, o
541				that	are part of the manufacturer's rental/lease/lease purchase
542				<u>agre</u>	ement terms and conditions.
543	6.	<u>On</u>	line and	Electro	onic Procurement and Notice
544		a.			itations. The Director of Purchasing may utilize a third-party on
545			line sy	/stem	to post solicitations, including addenda; descriptions o

549 Purchasing Card. The Superintendent or his/her designee may utilize 550 procurement cards, to purchase commodities and contractual services as deemed to be in the best interest of the District and consistent with School 551 Board Policy. Selected staff will be eligible to use a P-Card upon approval by 552 the Superintendent or his/her designee of the prospective user's signed 553 Purchasing Card Application (PBSD 2076) and Cardholder Acceptance 554 Guidelines and Contract (PBSD 2077), which contain the appropriate-use 555 standards and procedures. Pursuant to PBSD 2077, each user shall 556 acknowledge, by signing the Application and Acceptance Guidelines and 557 Contract, that the user must reimburse the District for any misuse of the 558 559 purchasing card and that a violation of those standards and procedures will be cause for discipline up to and including termination. 560

responses, bids, and replies from Proposers.

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commodities or contractual services believed to be available only from a single

source; and notices of Decisions or Intended Decisions, and to receive

- 7. Advance Payments. To ensure adequate protection to the School District that goods and contractual services will be provided, advanced payment for goods and contractual services is discouraged. With adequate safeguards, however, the School Board may approve advance payments for contracts requiring School Board approval; the Superintendent or his/her designee may approve advance payments for contracts requiring his/her approval; and the Director of Purchasing may approve advance payments for all other contracts, as follows:
- a. <u>for maintenance agreements, software license agreements, subscriptions, contracts to reserve space, and certain other commodities, when advance payment will result in a savings to the School District equal to or greater than the amount the School District would earn by investing the funds and paying in arrears, or where those items are essential to the operation of the School District and are available only if advance payment is made; or</u>
- b. in accordance with Policy 6.01 regarding certain employee travel expenses.

8. Integrity of the Award Process

- a. From the time the ITB, RFP, ITN, or other competitive solicitation is posted and the time a Decision or Intended Decision is posted, potential Proposers and employees, representatives, partners, director, officers, or other individuals acting on behalf of the Proposer, shall be prohibited from lobbying any School District employee, Member of the School Board, Member of a School District Advisory Committee that may evaluate the awarded contract, or person selected to evaluate or recommend selection of the awarded Proposer. Lobbying in violation of this Policy or the School Board's Lobbying Policy during the Cone of Silence shall result in rejection/disgualification of the Proposer from award of a contract arising out of the ITB, RFP, ITN, or other competitive solicitation. Further, in order to protect the integrity of the award process, all questions regarding the ITN, RFP, ITB, or other competitive solicitation must be directed to the Purchasing Department who will respond in writing and post such response to ensure that all vendors receive the same information during the Cone of Silence.
- b. After the Decision or Intended Decision is posted, any persons including Proposers, or those acting on behalf of the Proposers, may discuss with any Board Member the merits of any ITB, RFP, ITN, or other competitive solicitation on which School Board action may be taken. Members of the School Board shall disclose any ex-parte communications in accordance with section 286.0115, Florida Statutes. Such disclosure shall be made before or during the public meeting at which time a vote will be taken on the award of a contract.

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- c. Sealed bids, proposals, or replies received in response to a competitive solicitation are exempt from section 119.07(1), Florida Statutes and section 24(a), Article I of the State Constitution until such time as the School Board or authorized designee provides notice of a Decision or Intended Decision or until thirty (30) days after opening the bids, proposals, or final replies, whichever is earlier.
- d. Any portion of a meeting at which a negotiation with a Proposer is conducted pursuant to a competitive solicitation, at which a Proposer makes an oral presentation as part of a competitive solicitation, or at which a Proposer answers questions as part of a competitive solicitation is exempt from section 286.011, Florida Statutes, and section 24(b), Art. I of the State Constitution. Any portion of an evaluation committee meeting at which negotiation strategies are discussed is exempt from section 286.011, Florida Statutes, and section 24(b). Art. I of the State Constitution. A complete recording shall be made of any portion of an exempt meeting. No portion of the exempt meeting may be held off the record.
- 9. Protests Arising from the Contract Solicitation or Award Process. This section implements section 120.57(3), Florida Statutes and Chapter 28-110, Florida Administrative Code.

- a. School District's Notice of Decision or Intended Decision. Pursuant to section 120.57(3), Florida Statutes, the Director of Purchasing shall post notice of a Decision or Intended Decision concerning a solicitation or contract award arising out of the contract solicitation or award process by electronic posting. "Electronic posting" or "electronically post" means the noticing of solicitations, agency decisions or intended decisions, or other matters relating to procurement on a centralized Internet website designated for this purpose. This notice shall contain the following statement: "Failure to file a protest within the time prescribed in section 120.57(3), Florida Statutes, or failure to post a bond or other security required by law within the time allowed for filing a bond shall constitute a waiver of proceedings under Chapter 120, Florida Statutes."
- b. Notice of Protest. In a contract procurement process, any person who is adversely affected by the agency Decision or Intended Decision and intends to protest the Decision or Intended Decision, shall file a notice of protest in writing with the Director of Purchasing within seventy-two (72) hours after the posting of the notice of Decision or Intended Decision. With respect to a protest of the terms, conditions, and specifications contained in a solicitation, including any provisions governing the methods for ranking bids, proposals, or replies, awarding contracts, reserving rights of further negotiation, or modifying or amending any contract, the notice of protest shall be filed in writing within seventy-two (72) hours after the posting of the solicitation.

640		i.	A notice of protest should not be filed before the seventy-two (72) hour
641			period begins. The seventy-two (72) hour period begins upon posting of
642			the Decision or Intended Decision.
643		ii.	The notice of protest must be actually received by the Purchasing
644			Department before the seventy-two (72) hour period expires. The
645			seventy-two (72) hour period excludes Saturdays, Sundays, and holidays
646			when the School District administrative office is closed. The seventy-two
647			(72) hour period is not extended by service of the notice of protest by
648			mail. Failure to timely file a notice of protest shall constitute a waiver of
649			proceedings under this section and section 120.57(3), Florida Statutes.
049			proceedings under this section and section 120.37(3), I folia Statutes.
650		iii.	The notice of protest shall identify the procurement by number and title or
651			any other language that will clearly enable the School District to identify it;
652			and it shall state that the person intends to protest the decision.
653	C.	For	mal Written Protest. The protestor shall file a formal written protest within
654			(10) days after the date the notice of protest is filed. Failure to timely file
655			formal written protest shall constitute a waiver of proceedings under this
656			cy and section 120.57(3), Florida Statutes. The ten (10) day period for filing
657			petition is not extended by service of the petition by mail.
037		1110	bettion is not extended by service of the petition by mail.
658		i.	The formal written protest shall be a petition that:
659			A. states with particularity the facts and law upon which the protest is
660			based;
661			B. contains all the information specified in Rule 28-106.201(2), Florida
662			Administrative Code and Rule 28-106.301(2), Florida Administrative
663			<u>Code;</u>
664			C. is substantially in the form of petition set forth in Rule 28-110.004(2),
665			Florida Administrative Code, naming "The School Board of Palm
666			Beach County, Florida" as the Respondent; and
667			D. should include a request for a hearing involving disputed issues of
668			material fact; or, if the relevant facts are not in dispute, the petition
669			should so allege and request a hearing not involving disputed issues
670			of material fact.
671		ii.	Pursuant to Rule 28-110.004(1), Florida Administrative Code, if the formal
672			written protest is filed in proper form within the seventy-two (72) hour
673			period for filing a notice of protest, the formal written protest will also
674			constitute the notice of protest, and all time limits applicable to a notice of
675			protest are waived and the time limits relative to formal written protests

shall apply.

iii. Posting the Bond. The party protesting the bid specification or recommended award shall be required to post a bond in a form consistent with Rule 28-110.005(2), Florida Administrative Code and timely submit that bond to the School District Purchasing Department.

- iv. Bond: Commodities (Other than Lease of Space) and Contractual Services (Including Professional Services and Insurance). Any person who files an action protesting a Decision or Intended Decision pertaining to a solicitation or contract award shall post with the Director of Purchasing, at the time of filing the formal written protest, a bond secured by an acceptable surety company in Florida, payable to "The School Board of Palm Beach County, Florida" in an amount equal to one percent (1%) of the School District's estimate of the dollar value of the proposed contract.
 - A. The School District shall provide the estimated contract amount to the protestor within seventy-two (72) hours (excluding Saturdays, Sundays, and holidays when the School District administrative office is closed) after the filing of the notice of protest. The estimated contract amount is not subject to protest under this Policy or section 120.57(3), Florida Statutes. This information may be provided as part of the Decision or Intended Decision documents. In lieu of a bond, the Director of Purchasing may accept a cashier's check, official bank check, or money order in the amount of the bond.
 - B. The bond shall be conditioned upon the payment of all costs and charges which may be adjudged against the protestor in the administrative hearing in which the action is brought and in any subsequent appellate court proceeding.
 - C. If, after completion of the administrative hearing process and any appellate court proceedings, the School Board prevails, it shall be entitled to recover all costs and charges which are included in the final order or judgment, excluding attorney's fees. Upon payment of such costs and charges by the person protesting the Decision or Intended Decision or contract award, the bond, cashier's check, official bank check, or money order shall be returned to the protestor. If, after the completion of the administrative hearing process and any appellate court proceedings, the protestor prevails, the protestor may recover from the School Board the costs and charges which are included in the final order or judgment, excluding attorney's fees.
- v. <u>Bond: Construction Purchasing.</u> Bonds related to construction purchasing are separately governed by Policy 7.10, and protestors regarding competitive procurement related to educational facilities shall

be required to post a bond in the amount specified in section 255.0516. Florida Statutes, which also governs recovery of fees and costs including attorney's fees. With respect to a protest of the terms, conditions, and specifications contained in a solicitation, protestors shall post a bond in the amount of one percent (1%) of the School District's estimate of the dollar value of the proposed contract or \$5,000, whichever is greater. d. Staying the Procurement Process. Upon timely receipt of the formal written

- d. Staying the Procurement Process. Upon timely receipt of the formal written protest petition, the solicitation or contract award process shall be stopped until the subject of the protest is resolved by final agency action, unless the Superintendent sets forth in writing particular facts and circumstances which require the continuance of the solicitation or contract award process without delay in order to avoid an immediate and serious danger to the public health, safety, or welfare.
- e. <u>Informal Resolution Meeting</u>. The Director of Purchasing shall provide an opportunity to resolve the protest by mutual agreement between the parties within seven (7) days (excluding Saturdays, Sundays, and holidays when the School District administrative offices are closed) of receipt of the formal written protest. All affected parties shall be notified of the notice of protest.
 - Hearing. If the protest is not resolved by mutual agreement within seven (7) days (excluding Saturdays, Sundays, and holidays when the School District administrative offices are closed) after receipt of the formal written protest; and
 - A. <u>if there is no disputed issue of material fact, an informal proceeding shall be conducted pursuant to section 120.57(2), Florida Statutes and applicable Board Policies, and may be conducted before an impartial hearing officer who is a member in good standing of The Florida Bar; or</u>
 - B. <u>if there is a disputed issue of material fact, in accordance with section 120.569</u>, Florida Statutes, the protest shall be referred within <u>fifteen (15) days after the Director of Purchasing receives the Formal Written Protest to the Division of Administrative Hearings for a formal hearing under section 120.57(1), Florida Statutes.</u>
 - ii. As stated in section 120.57(3)(f), Florida Statutes, the burden of proof shall rest with the party protesting the proposed agency action.
 - A. <u>In any bid-protest proceeding contesting an intended agency action to reject all bids, proposals, or replies, the standard of review shall be whether the School Board's intended action is illegal, arbitrary, dishonest, or fraudulent.</u>

B. In competitive-procurement protests other than those contesting an intended agency action to reject all bids, proposals, or replies, the hearing officer or administrative law judge will conduct a de novo proceeding to determine whether the School Board's proposed action is contrary to the governing statutes, the School Board's Policies, or the solicitation documents. The standard of proof for such proceedings shall be whether the proposed agency action was clearly erroneous, contrary to competition, arbitrary, or capricious.

10. Authority to Debar or Suspend

- a. The School Board may suspend a vendor who fails to fulfill any of its duties in a contract. The School Board may reinstate any such vendor when it is satisfied that further instances of default will not occur.
 - b. The School Board shall have the authority to debar a vendor for cause from consideration or award of future contracts or subcontracts. The debarment shall be for a period commensurate with the seriousness of the causes, generally not to exceed three (3) years. When the offense is willful or blatant, a longer term of debarment may be imposed, up to an indefinite period. This sanction shall be imposed only when it is in the best interest of the School District and for protection of the public, and not for punishment.
 - c. Good cause for Debarment or Suspension include the following:
 - i. conviction or civil judgment for commission of a fraud or a criminal offense as an incident to obtaining, attempting to obtain, performing, or making a claim upon any public entity contract or subcontract, or a contract funded in whole or in part with public funds;
 - ii. <u>conviction or civil judgment for commission of a fraud or a criminal offense as an incident to obtaining, attempting to obtain, performing, or making a claim upon any private contractor subcontract;</u>
 - iii. conviction or civil judgment under state or federal statutes of embezzlement, theft, forgery, bribery, collusion, racketeering, public entity crimes, dishonest services, falsification or destruction of records, receiving stolen property, or any other offense indicating a lack of business integrity or business honesty;
 - iv. <u>conviction or civil judgment for violation of state or federal antitrust</u> statutes arising out of the submission of offers, bids, or proposals:
 - v. violation of the School Board's Lobbying Policy;
 - vi. conviction or civil judgment for violating any federal or state immigration,

791		minimum wage, or any other applicable employment related law;
792 793 794	vii.	violation of contract provisions, as set forth below, of a character which is regarded by the Director of Purchasing to be so serious as to justify debarment action:
795 796 797		A. <u>failure without good cause to perform in accordance with the terms or specifications of the contract, or within the time limit provided in the contract; or </u>
798 799 800 801 802 803		B. a record of failure to perform or of unsatisfactory performance in accordance with the terms of one or more contracts; provided that failure to perform or unsatisfactory performance caused by acts beyond the control of the awarded Proposer or vendor doing business with the School District shall not be considered to be a basis for debarment;
804 805	viii.	filing a lawsuit against the School Board which a court of competent jurisdiction determines to be frivolous or in bad faith;
806 807	ix.	any and all causes for Suspension or Revocation listed in State Requirements for Educational Facilities 4.1(1)(g):
808 809 810 811	X.	providing anything of value, including but not limited to, a gift, loan, reward, promise of future employment, favor or service to any School District employee, Board member, or member of the evaluation committee for the purpose of influencing the award of a contract or the purchase of items from the vendor; and
813 814 815 816 817	xi.	any other cause the Director of Purchasing determines to be so serious and compelling as to affect responsibility as a Palm Beach County Schools awarded Proposer or vendor doing business with the School District, including debarment by another governmental entity for any cause.
818 d. 819 820	Boa	cision. The Superintendent may make a recommendation to the School and to debar or suspend. The School Board shall approve, reject, or modify recommendation at a public meeting.
821 e. 822 823 824	Sec sus	ice of Decision. A notice of the action taken by the School Board under this tion shall be mailed or otherwise furnished immediately to the debarred or pended person/company and any other party intervening. This notice shall ude the following:

the reasons for the action taken; and

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i.

826		ii. the length of time of the debarment.
827		f. Any vendor who is debarred or suspended shall have the right to file a petition
828		for Administrative Hearing pursuant to sections 120.569 and 120.57, Florida
829		Statutes.
830	11.	Beneficial Interest Form and Affidavit.
831		Vendors wishing to do business with the School Board must execute PBSD 1997
832		At all times during the performance of the contract for goods or contractua
833		services, the vendor shall ensure that the information disclosed on such form is
834		current and correct.
835	12.	Office of the Inspector General.
836		All vendors providing commodities or contractual services to the School Board
837		pursuant to this Policy must agree to provide the School District's Office of the
838		Inspector General with information needed to conduct an audit as permitted by
839		Policy 1.092. All written contracts evidencing a purchase made in accordance with
840		this Policy: every bid, proposal, and solicitation for contracts with outside
841		contractors and subcontractors; and every application for certification of eligibility
842		for a School Board contract or program shall contain a statement that the Inspector
843		General shall have access to all financial and performance-related records
844		services, property, and equipment purchased in whole or in part with School Board
845		funds, and that the individual, corporation, partnership, or organization understands
846		and will abide by Policy 1.092, as applicable.
847	13.	Administrative Procedures
848		Wherever this Policy mentions procedures to be established or implemented by the
849		Superintendent, certain internal operational procedures and guidelines may be se
850		forth in manuals where appropriate.
851		
852	STA	ATUTORY AUTHORITY: Fla. Stat. §§ 1001.41(2); 1001.42 (26); 1001.43(2)
853	LAV	VS IMPLEMENTED: Fla. Stat. §§ 119.071(1)(b); 120.57(3); 255.0516; 255.25(3)(d)
854		.0113; 1001.32(2); 1001.41(1),(4),(5); 1001.42(12)(i),(j); 1001.51(11)(i); 1006.27
855		0.04; 1011.06; 1011.07
856		ATE BOARD OF EDUCATION RULE: Fla. Admin. Code Rule 6A-1.012
857		MINISTRATIVE PROCEDURE ACT RULES: Fla. Admin. Code Chapter 28-110
858		TORY: 3323, 9340.0, 2/18/72; 12/19/73; 4/6/83; 12/11/91; 11/21/95; 6/3/98; 9/22/99
859		7/00: 5/24/2004: / /2013

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Legal Signoff:	
The Legal Department has revie for adoption by the Board.	wed proposed Policy 6.14 and finds it legally sufficien
Attorney	