

Darrol Farrington

BEFORE THE  
PALM BEACH COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD, FLORIDA

ARTHUR C. JOHNSON, Ph.D.                     )  
Superintendent of Schools                     )  
Petitioner,   )  
   )  
vs.   )  
   )  
DARROL L. FARRINGTON, SR.,                 )  
Respondent.                                       )  
\_\_\_\_\_/

**PETITION FOR SUSPENSION WITHOUT PAY**  
**AND DISMISSAL FROM EMPLOYMENT**

Arthur C. Johnson, Ph.D., Superintendent of Schools of the School District of Palm Beach County, Florida, pursuant to the due process provisions of Sections 120.569, 120.57, 1012.22(1)(f), 1012.27(5), and 1012.40, Florida Statutes, files this Petition for Suspension Without Pay and Dismissal from Employment from the School District of Palm Beach County, Florida, against Respondent, Darrol L. Farrington, Sr., for Unsafe Operation of a School Bus, thereby precluding Respondent from meeting the School Board's minimum standards for continuing employment in the Palm Beach County School District, constituting just cause for suspension of his employment for fifteen (15) days without pay and termination of his employment under Florida Statutes Section 1012.22 (1)(f), 1012.27(5), and 1012.40; School Board Policies 1.013, 3.21, and 3.27; School Board Directives 2.36 and 3.27; Palm Beach County School Bus Drivers and Bus Attendants Handbook Sections II.C.1, II.C.7, II.E.9 and VI; and Article 17 Section 6 of the Collective Bargaining Agreement between the School Board of Palm Beach County and the National Conference of Firemen & Oilers, and states as follows:

I. JURISDICTIONAL BASIS

1. The agency is the School Board of Palm Beach County, Florida, located at:  
  
3340 Forest Hill Boulevard  
West Palm Beach, Florida 33406-5869  
Attn: Board Secretary
2. Petitioner, Arthur C. Johnson, Ph.D., is the duly appointed Superintendent of Schools of the Palm Beach County School District, Florida. The address of the Petitioner is:  
  
Superintendent of Schools  
Palm Beach County School Board  
c/o JulieAnn Rico Allison, Esq.  
3318 Forest Hill Boulevard, Suite C-302  
West Palm Beach, Florida 33406-5813
3. Petitioner has the statutory responsibility and obligation to recommend the placement of school personnel and to require compliance and observance by all personnel of all laws, policies and directives. Pursuant to Section 1012.27(5), Florida Statutes, Petitioner has the authority to recommend to the School Board of Palm Beach County, Florida, that school district employees be dismissed from employment.
4. Respondent is employed by the School Board of Palm Beach County as a School Bus Driver I.
5. The last known address of Respondent is 415 N.W. 13<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Boynton Beach, Florida.
6. Respondent was duly notified of the recommendation for suspension without pay and termination by letter dated the \_\_\_\_ day of September, 2005. The letter was sent via certified mail, return receipt requested and regular U.S. mail.

II. ADMINISTRATIVE CHARGES

Petitioner, Arthur C. Johnson, Ph.D., alleges as follows:

7. Respondent is a School Bus Driver I with the Transportation Department of the Palm Beach County

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School District in Palm Beach County, Florida.

8. During the 2004/2005 school year, Respondent was the subject of a Professional Standards investigation based upon allegations that he attempted to drive the bus through a railroad crossing while the gates were activated causing the gate to hit the top of the bus. Students were present on the bus at the time of the alleged incident. Further inquiry revealed at least one witness who alleged that Respondent was talking on a cellular phone during the alleged incident.
9. At the conclusion of the investigation, the allegation of Unsafe Operation of a School Bus was sustained.

### III. LEGAL BASIS FOR ADMINISTRATIVE CHARGES

10. Therefore, the basis for charges upon which the employment of non-instructional personnel may be terminated is set forth in Florida Statutes Sections 1012.22 (1)(f), 1012.27(5), and 1012.40.
11. Accordingly, just cause exists for Respondent to be disciplined by way of a fifteen (15) day suspension without pay and termination of employment pursuant Florida Statutes Section 1012.22 (1)(f), 1012.27(5), and 1012.40; School Board Policies 1.013, 3.21, and 3.27; School Board Directives 2.36 and 3.27; Palm Beach County School Bus Drivers and Bus Attendants Handbook Sections II.C.1, II.C.7, II.E.9 and VI; and Article 17 Section 6 of the Collective Bargaining Agreement between the School Board of Palm Beach County and the National Conference of Firemen & Oilers.

### IV. DEMAND FOR RELIEF

WHEREFORE, Petitioner, Arthur C. Johnson, Ph.D., Superintendent of Schools, recommends that the School Board of Palm Beach County, Florida, suspend the Respondent without pay September 22, 2005 and terminate Respondent's employment effective upon the expiration of fifteen (15) days subsequent to the

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September 21, 2005 Board Meeting, subject only to appeal under Section 120.68, Florida Statutes, unless a  
timely request for administrative hearing is made within the fifteen (15) days stated herein pursuant to Sections  
120.569 and 120.57, Florida Statutes, wherein Respondent will remain suspended without the payment of  
salary and benefits until final School Board disposition is entered subsequent to the administrative hearing  
proceedings.

\_\_\_\_\_  
ARTHUR C. JOHNSON, Ph.D.  
SUPERINTENDENT

STATE OF FLORIDA            )  
  ) SS  
COUNTY OF PALM BEACH    )

The foregoing instrument was executed before me this \_\_\_\_ day of September, 2005, by ARTHUR C.  
JOHNSON, Ph.D., who is personally known by me (or has produced \_\_\_\_\_ as  
identification) and who took/did not take an oath.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Notary Public  
State of Florida at Large

\_\_\_\_\_  
Type or Print Name of Notary  
My Commission Expires