

Description of Cost Savings Measures

During the period starting in FY 2007-08 and continuing through today M-DCPS has absorbed over \$2 billion in revenue reductions without sacrificing high quality programs or outstanding instruction. The following is a sample of the cost savings measures the District has undertaken:

- Re-routed bus routes in FY 2009-10 and eliminated 56 routes from our Transportation Department while not impacting wait time of students. A more detailed description of these cost savings and efficiencies are attached for your review.
- Rebid contracts for all types of services including software, supplies, materials and maintenance products. One example, a re-bid of the District's contract with Blackboard saved over \$250,000 in just one year.
- TERRA Environmental Research Institute, a senior high school, opened in the fall of 2009. TERRA is the only Gold LEED large high school in the country. Details about the school are available on their website (<http://terrawolves.com/>).
- Demonstration solar panels' installation under partnership with Florida Power and Light with a strong science education tie-in. Currently the district has one installation in place with 4 more planned within the year.
- Solar panel installation at five schools under a grant from Florida Solar Energy Center for emergency (partial energy) back-up purposes.
- Partnered with Miami Science Museum and local eco-artist (3 years in a row) during Earth Week – thus far (almost 1,000 trees planted over the three year period with active involvement from students and faculty).
- Partnered with Dream in Green as part of implementation of Green Schools Challenge, which now encompasses approximately 130 schools.
- Reduced the District's dependency on leased space between FY 2007-08 and FY 2010-11 by almost 50%, and in so doing cut lease costs from approximately \$4.58 million in FY 2007-08 to \$2.44 million in FY 2010-11. This was achieved primarily through relocating functions from leased space to Board-owned facilities as well as renegotiating lease rates.
- Procurement Management Services maintains a website (<http://procurement.dadeschools.net>) that solicits bids using the site rather than mail. Annual savings are approximately \$97,000 commencing in FY 2007-08.
- Over the last several years, a significant number of reports are no longer printed. District wide savings exceed \$1M annually.
- Printers are no longer the norm for individual workstations. Many offices route work to network printers who are more cost effective.
- The Superintendent increased the District's efforts to go green when supply accounts at Central Office were limited to \$50 per staff member in the office. Meeting agendas in most cases are now available electronically.
- In FY 2010-11, the district eliminated paper payroll checks. See the Board item included.

- The District's Department of Food and Nutrition Staff met with the manufacturer of the tray we use for breakfast and lunch and re-engineered a tray that uses less Styrofoam while still meeting the needs of students.
- At the suggestion of a student, Palmetto Senior High School adopted "Tray-less Tuesdays". Beginning in FY 2010-11, no trays are used for lunch at the school. Items are designed to be taken individually so trays are not necessary. Since the adoption, the school has reduced tray usage by 27,000 units. A presentation done by students about Trayless Tuesday is included in this section.
- The Bureau of Food and Nutrition has significantly reduced the number and types of containers they use. By updating menus to include many more whole fresh fruits, the district no longer purchases 2 oz cups or 4 oz cups and lids thus reducing the volume of Styrofoam used.
- Many departments in the district have green initiatives included in their home pages. A few examples are: (http://nutrition.dadeschools.net/Go_Green.asp).

Several examples of other creative cost saving measures are provided for your review.