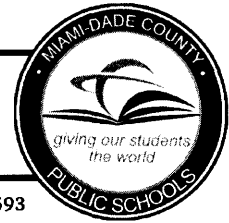


Christopher R. Mazzella
Inspector General
Office of the Inspector General for Miami-Dade County Public Schools



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

From: Christopher Mazzella, Inspector General

Date: September 1, 2011

Re: Miami-Edison Senior High School Treasurer Charged with Fraud, Ref. IG11-38SB

Lisa Merryll Bradley (Bradley), a 23-year Miami-Dade County Public Schools (M-DCPS) employee, was criminally arraigned today on 88 felony charges as a result of an investigation conducted by the Miami-Dade County Public Schools Office of the Inspector General (OIG). Bradley, the Treasurer at Miami-Edison Senior High School (Edison) for the past three and a half years, was charged by the Miami-Dade State Attorney's Office (SAO) with one count of Organized Scheme to Defraud, 14 counts of Forgery, 14 counts of Uttering Forged Instruments and 59 counts of Official Misconduct. The OIG commenced the investigation this past July. On August 2, 2011, the Miami-Dade County Public Schools Police Department (M-DPCS Police) assisted the OIG and arrested Bradley.

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 deposited the Edison checks into her personal account. The OIG investigation also uncovered that upon receiving the statements and canceled checks from Edison's financial institution, Bradley created phony copies of the checks using the names and information of actual vendors doing business with Edison. The cover-up was so extensive that it included copying actual endorsements from legitimate Edison vendors to simulate the backs of the fraudulent canceled checks. Bradley also created phony documents, such as purchase orders and invoices, to serve as back-up documentation for the checks. The loss attributed to Bradley's criminal activity is over \$160,000. Investigators are continuing to probe other transactions with the assistance of the M-DCPS Office of Management and Compliance Audits.

The OIG would like to thank M-DCPS Police and the MDCPS Office of Management and Compliance Audits for their assistance and cooperation in this investigation.

cc: Chief Charles J. Hurley, Miami-Dade County Public Schools Police Department
Mr. Jose Montes de Oca, Chief Auditor, Office of Management and Compliance Audits
Mr. Walter J. Harvey, School Board Attorney
Mr. John Schuster, Chief Communications Officer, Office of Public Relations
Dr. Pablo G. Ortiz, Provost, Miami Edison Senior High School