




Mary T. Cagle
Inspector General
Office of the Inspector General for Miami-Dade County Public Schools



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
Maria T. Gonzalez, Chief Auditor, M-DCPS
Daisy Gonzalez-Diego, Chief Communications Officer, M-DCPS