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TO: The Honorable Dr. Lawrence S. Feldman, Chair,  
and Members, Miami-Dade School Board  
  
Alberto M. Carvalho, Superintendent of Schools, M-DCPS

FROM: Mary T. Cagle, Inspector General 

DATE: August 23, 2017

SUBJECT: Arrest of Joey Bautista, Former Principal of the Miami Jackson Adult  
Education Center, Ref: SB1617-1001

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Joey Bautista (Bautista), a 19-year employee of Miami-Dade County Public Schools who was the principal of the Miami Jackson Adult Education Center (MJA Center) since 2011 until his reassignment in June of this year, was arrested today. Bautista faces multiple felony charges stemming from him abusing his public position for private gain. The MJA Center is an afternoon and night school, adult continuing education facility housed within the Miami Jackson Senior High School campus. The MJA Center is administratively separate from the high school and has its own staff, including teachers, administrators, and custodial personnel.

The investigation uncovered that for two and a half years, between March 2013 and September 2015, Bautista paid for his personal housekeeper/nanny with School District funds. The employee was hired by Bautista and worked as a school custodian at one of the MJA Center's satellite schools before Bautista directed her to clean and cook at his home, and to take care of his children – all while she remained on the MJA Center's payroll. For the time period investigated, Bautista's housekeeper/nanny was paid over \$41,000 in taxpayer funds.

The arrest was the result of a joint investigation by the Office of the Inspector General and the Miami-Dade State Attorney's Office Public Corruption Task Force (PC Task Force), which includes Miami-Dade Schools Police detectives. This investigation stems directly from our earlier investigation into the North Miami Adult Education Center and the arrest of its principal Jean Ridore, whose criminal case is still pending. The OIG is grateful for the cooperative working relationship with the SAO's Public Corruption Task Force and the cooperation provided by School District staff during the course of this investigation. Attached is a press release from the SAO with additional information about today's arrest and the criminal charges filed.

cc: Chief Ian A. Moffett, Miami-Dade Schools Police Department  
Walter J. Harvey, School Board Attorney, M-DCPS  
Jose Montes de Oca, Chief Auditor, M-DCPS  
Daisy Gonzalez-Diego, Chief Communications Officer, M-DCPS



**KATHERINE FERNANDEZ RUNDLE  
STATE ATTORNEY**

**ELEVENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT  
IN AND FOR MIAMI-DADE COUNTY**



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **Former Miami Jackson Adult Education Center Principal Arrested**

Miami (August 23, 2017) - As the result of a joint collaborative investigation by the Miami-Dade State Attorney's Office Public Corruption Task Force (PC Task Force), the Miami-Dade County Public Schools Office of the Inspector General and Miami-Dade County Public Schools Police, the former Principal of the Miami Jackson Adult Education Center (MJA Center) Joey Bautista was arrested today and charged with:

- 1 Organized Scheme to Defraud – 2nd Degree Felony
- 3 counts of Official Misconduct - 3rd Degree Felony
- 3 counts of Grand Theft – 3rd Degree Felony

“The alleged misuse of school funds to pay for child care and housekeeping services is an absolute betrayal of trust,” commented State Attorney Katherine Fernandez Rundle. “Every educational dollar is intended to better individuals and our community, not someone who can manipulate the paperwork to scam the system. I am proud that this collaborative effort with the Miami-Dade County Public Schools Office of the Inspector General and their police department has allowed us to end such financial abuse.”

Acting on material supplied by a confidential source, the school employment history of Ms. Adeline Joseph was reviewed. According to the informational source, Ms. Joseph had stopped working as a custodian at the school and allegedly began to work as Bautista's personal housekeeper and child care attendant while being paid by Miami-Dade County Public Schools (MDCPS). The investigation allegedly found no evidence to indicate that Ms. Joseph worked at the MJA Center main campus or at any other school from March 29, 2013 through September 24, 2015. Presently, it is estimated that \$41,798.22 was allegedly stolen from the school during former principal Bautista's tenure at the MJA Center.

Bautista had been the MJA Center Principal since July 2011. He was reassigned to the Miami Beach Adult Education Center in June of this year. The MJA Center, while housed within Miami Jackson Senior High School and several other satellite facilities, is an afternoon and night school entity administratively separate from Miami Jackson Senior High School.

Miami-Dade County Inspector General Mary T. Cagle stated “Taxpayers should be outraged when their hard earned dollars are stolen by greedy public officials for their private gain. These types of frauds, committed by dishonest public servants, will continue to be the focus of OIG investigations.”

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FOR FURTHER  
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