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**UTD Sues Miami-Dade School Board for Sunshine Law Violations,
Demands That Budget Decisions Be Made In Open**

MIAMI – United Teachers of Dade (UTD), Florida’s largest teacher union, today sued the Miami-Dade School Board for violating the state’s Government in the Sunshine Law and demanded that all budget decisions be made in the open.

UTD’s suit, filed in Miami-Dade Circuit Court, alleges that the board broke the law when they met Jan. 30th in a closed-door “executive session” called by Superintendent Alberto Carvalho.

Under Florida law, the board is only allowed to discuss issues directly involving litigation or contract negotiations during executive sessions. *The Miami Herald* reported the following day that the board discussed Carvalho’s plan “to cut more than \$50 million from the district’s current budget by the end of the fiscal year.”

Carvalho and the board members were required by law to hold any talks about his plan in the open, at an advertised forum or hearing.

“The future of our public schools in Miami-Dade should not be decided behind closed doors where no one can be held accountable,” said UTD President Karen Aronowitz, who is also a plaintiff in the suit. “The public has a right to be in the room when important decisions are being made.”

Carvalho and the board have held several other closed-door meetings since his appointment as superintendent last October, the suit notes.

UTD is seeking the minutes of all closed-door meetings held since then, and a court order voiding any actions taken by the board that stem from an illegal meeting. **The union plans to depose Carvalho and members of the school board.**

“We won’t allow any secret budget deals to be made. We need to know what they’ve been talking about outside the eyes and ears of the public and the law,” she said.

[Click here](#) for a copy of the complaint.

The United Teachers of Dade represents 38,000 teachers and school support personnel in MDCPS. The union is committed to being a leader in improving the status and climate of the education profession by fostering a quality public education and professional status for teachers, paraprofessionals, office employees, all school support personnel and students.

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