

Condensed Title:

A Resolution to support Miami-Dade County Public Schools' legislative initiative and request that the Florida Legislature fulfill its commitment to hold school district operational and capital funding harmless, restore the local discretionary capital outlay levy, and oppose legislation that reduces in-service hours for English language learner teachers.

Key Intended Outcome Supported:

Enhance Learning Opportunities for Youth

Issue:

Shall the Mayor and City Commission approve the Resolution?

Item Summary/Recommendation:

The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, has experienced significant budget reductions of nearly \$300 million. The Constitution creates a clear mandate for a uniform and high quality education system and for the State to make adequate provision for this purpose. In addition, Florida employers consistently rank improving education and workforce development as top concerns to the success of their business, and a highly qualified, trained workforce as critical to strengthening our business climate. The City of Miami Beach believes that funding a high-quality education system is an investment in our state's and our community's ability to compete nationally and globally in the marketplace and that adequate funding is needed to achieve a high-quality education system measured by gains in student achievement.

To protect youth in the classroom, MDCPS budget cuts to date have been aimed at central administration, which has been reduced by 27 percent, including reductions to salaries of between 2 and 10 percent. This action positions Miami-Dade as the district with the smallest administrative cost per student in the entire state. Unfortunately, additional budget reductions will likely affect our students. Approved by the School Board at its meeting of November 18, 2008, the MDCPS State and Federal Legislative programs reflect legislative needs identified not just by the School Board, but also by interested citizen and PTA/PTSA groups, employee groups, administrators, and school-site personnel.

Advisory Board Recommendation:

N/A

Financial Information:

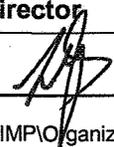
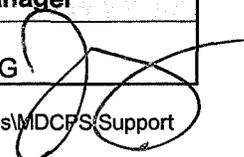
Source of Funds:	Amount	Account	Approved
1	N/A	#	
2			
OBPI Total			

Financial Impact Summary:

City Clerk's Office Legislative Tracking:

Dr. Leslie Rosenfeld, Organizational Development

Sign-Offs:

Department Director	Assistant City Manager	City Manager
KGB 		JMG 

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MIAMIBEACH

City of Miami Beach, 1700 Convention Center Drive, Miami Beach, Florida 33139, www.miamibeachfl.gov

COMMISSION MEMORANDUM

TO: Mayor Matti Herrera Bower and Members of the City Commission

FROM: Jorge M. Gonzalez, City Manager

DATE: February 25, 2009

SUBJECT: **A RESOLUTION OF THE MAYOR AND CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF MIAMI BEACH, FLORIDA, TO SUPPORT MIAMI-DADE COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS' LEGISLATIVE INITIATIVE AND REQUEST THAT THE FLORIDA LEGISLATURE FULFILL ITS COMMITMENT TO HOLD SCHOOL DISTRICT OPERATIONAL AND CAPITAL FUNDING HARMLESS FROM THE IMPACT OF PROPERTY TAX REFORM, RESTORE THE LOCAL DISCRETIONARY CAPITAL OUTLAY LEVY, AND OPPOSE LEGISLATION THAT REDUCED THE NUMBER OF IN-SERVICE HOURS REQUIRED OF TEACHERS PROVIDING INSTRUCTION TO ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNERS.**

ADMINISTRATION RECOMMENDATION

Approve the Resolution.

BACKGROUND

The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, has experienced significant budget reductions of nearly \$300 million. The Constitution creates a clear mandate for a uniform and high quality education system and for the State to make adequate provision for this purpose. In addition, Florida employers consistently rank improving education and workforce development as top concerns to the success of their business, and a highly qualified, trained workforce as critical to strengthening our business climate.

The City of Miami Beach believes that funding a high-quality education system is an investment in our state's and our community's ability to compete nationally and globally in the marketplace and that adequate funding is needed to achieve a high-quality education system measured by gains in student achievement.

To protect youth in the classroom, MDCPS budget cuts to date have been aimed at central administration, which has been reduced by 27 percent, including reductions to salaries of between 2 and 10 percent. This action positions Miami-Dade as the district with the smallest administrative cost per student in the entire state. Unfortunately, additional budget reductions will likely affect our students.

Approved by the School Board at its meeting of November 18, 2008, the MDCPS State and Federal Legislative programs reflect legislative needs identified not just by the School Board, but also by interested citizen and PTA/PTSA groups, employee groups, administrators, and school-site personnel.

CONCLUSION

The Administration recommends the approval of this Resolution. This approval will assist the Department in accomplishing its measurable objectives linked to the City's Key Intended Outcome of Enhancing Learning Opportunities for Youth.

JMG/KGB/LDR

RESOLUTION NO. _____

A RESOLUTION OF THE MAYOR AND CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF MIAMI BEACH, FLORIDA, TO SUPPORT MIAMI-DADE COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS' LEGISLATIVE INITIATIVE AND REQUEST THAT THE FLORIDA LEGISLATURE FULFILL ITS COMMITMENT TO HOLD SCHOOL DISTRICT OPERATIONAL AND CAPITAL FUNDING HARMLESS FROM THE IMPACT OF PROPERTY TAX REFORM, RESTORE THE LOCAL DISCRETIONARY CAPITAL OUTLAY LEVY, AND OPPOSE LEGISLATION THAT REDUCED THE NUMBER OF IN-SERVICE HOURS REQUIRED OF TEACHERS PROVIDING INSTRUCTION TO ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNERS.

WHEREAS, the Florida Constitution provides that the education of children is a fundamental value of the people of Florida and a paramount duty of the State; and,

WHEREAS, the Constitution creates a clear mandate for a uniform and high quality education system and for the State to make adequate provision for this purpose; and,

WHEREAS, The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, has experienced significant budget reductions of nearly \$300 million; and,

WHEREAS, Florida employers consistently rank improving education and workforce development as top concerns to the success of their business, and a highly qualified, trained workforce as critical to strengthening our business climate; and,

WHEREAS, the education system needs to respond to the workforce needs of Florida's employers, including programs that expand career academies in high schools, align career education with industry standards and workforce demands, and expand options for students to continue their education and enter the workforce; and,

WHEREAS, the Pre-K-20 education system is the foundation for Florida's future, providing the talent base for economic diversification and an economic engine for the knowledge economy, and Florida should continue to move its education system at all levels (Pre-K-20) into the top quartile in education quality, student rankings and graduation rates based on national standards; and,

WHEREAS, the City of Miami Beach believes that funding a high-quality education system is an investment in our state's and our community's ability to compete nationally and globally in the marketplace; and

WHEREAS, the City of Miami Beach believes that adequate funding is needed to achieve a high-quality education system measured by gains in student achievement.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT DULY RESOLVED THAT THE MAYOR AND CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF MIAMI BEACH, FLORIDA hereby support Miami-Dade County Public Schools' legislative initiative and request that the Florida Legislature:

- Fulfill its commitment to hold school district operational and capital funding harmless from the impact of property tax reform and budget
- shortfalls by funding the student enrollment at minimally 2008-2009 levels of \$6,968.29;
- Restore the local Discretionary Capital Outlay levy to 2-mills; and
- Oppose legislation that reduces the number of in-service hours required of teachers providing instruction to English Language Learners.
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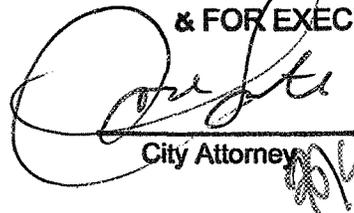
PASSED and ADOPTED this _____ day of _____ 2009.

MAYOR

ATTEST:

CITY CLERK

**APPROVED AS TO
FORM & LANGUAGE
& FOR EXECUTION**



City Attorney

2/20/09

Date