



**MEMORANDUM**

Agenda Item No. 11 (A) (39)

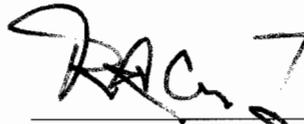
**TO:** Honorable Chairman Dennis C. Moss  
and Members, Board of County Commissioners

**DATE:** April 7, 2009

**FROM:** R. A. Cuevas, Jr.  
County Attorney

**SUBJECT:** Resolution urging the Florida  
Department of Education to  
maintain current training standards  
for reading teachers of English  
Language Learners in Florida's  
public schools

The accompanying resolution was prepared and placed on the agenda at the request of Prime Sponsor Commissioner Rebeca Sosa.



\_\_\_\_\_  
R. A. Cuevas, Jr.  
County Attorney

RAC/cp

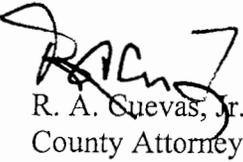


# MEMORANDUM

(Revised)

**TO:** Honorable Chairman Dennis C. Moss  
and Members, Board of County Commissioners

**DATE:** April 7, 2009

**FROM:**   
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**SUBJECT:** Agenda Item No. 11(A) (39)

Please note any items checked.

- "4-Day Rule" ("3-Day Rule" for committees) applicable if raised
- 6 weeks required between first reading and public hearing
- 4 weeks notification to municipal officials required prior to public hearing
- Decreases revenues or increases expenditures without balancing budget
- Budget required
- Statement of fiscal impact required
- Bid waiver requiring County Mayor's written recommendation
- Ordinance creating a new board requires detailed County Manager's report for public hearing
- Housekeeping item (no policy decision required)
- No committee review

Approved \_\_\_\_\_ Mayor  
Veto \_\_\_\_\_  
Override \_\_\_\_\_

Agenda Item No. 11(A) (39)  
4-7-09

RESOLUTION NO. \_\_\_\_\_

RESOLUTION URGING THE FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF  
EDUCATION TO MAINTAIN CURRENT TRAINING  
STANDARDS FOR READING TEACHERS OF ENGLISH  
LANGUAGE LEARNERS IN FLORIDA'S PUBLIC SCHOOLS

**WHEREAS**, the United States District Court for the Southern District of Florida, Miami Division, Case No. 90-1913, issued a Consent Decree in *LULAC v. Florida Board of Education*, in 1990 calling for equal access to all education programs for English Language Learner (ELL) students, including a mandate for English as a second language (ESOL) endorsement for all teachers of the English language to ELL students; and

**WHEREAS**, in 2007 and 2008 legislative efforts to weaken the training requirements for reading teachers of ELL students failed, but a current administrative move by the Florida Department of Education again threatens to reduce training requirements; and

**WHEREAS**, section 1003.56, Florida Statutes, entitled "English language instruction for limited English proficient students," is designed to develop the student's mastery of the four language skills, including listening, speaking, reading, and writing, as rapidly as possible; and

**WHEREAS**, this Board wants all children to read English, wants teachers to prepare them to read, and wants monitoring to ensure compliance with the requirements stated in the Consent Decree referenced above; and

**WHEREAS**, it makes little sense to withdraw support from children who are already struggling; and

**WHEREAS**, at a time when we must strive to be as competitive as possible in a quickly changing global economy, we cannot afford to lower the bar of expectations and training for our highly qualified teachers; and

**WHEREAS**, it is the view of this Board that maintaining the existing training standards for reading teachers of ELL students is in the best interests of the citizens and residents of Miami-Dade County,

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA**, that:

**Section 1.** Urges the Florida Department of Education to maintain current training standards for reading teachers of English Language Learner students.

**Section 2.** Directs the Clerk of the Board to transmit certified copies of the resolution to the Governor, Senate President, House Speaker, the Chair and Members of the Miami-Dade State Legislative Delegation and the Commissioner of the Florida Department of Education.

**Section 3.** Directs the County's state lobbyists to advocate for the issue identified in section 1 above, and directs the Office of Intergovernmental Affairs to include this item in the 2009 and 2010 state legislative packages.

The Prime Sponsor of the foregoing resolution is Commissioner Rebeca Sosa. It was offered by Commissioner \_\_\_\_\_, who moved its adoption. The motion was seconded by Commissioner \_\_\_\_\_ and upon being put to a vote, the vote was as follows:

Dennis C. Moss, Chairman  
Jose "Pepe" Diaz, Vice-Chairman

Bruno A. Barreiro  
Carlos A. Gimenez  
Barbara J. Jordan  
Dorrin D. Rolle  
Katy Sorenson  
Sen. Javier D. Souto

Audrey M. Edmonson  
Sally A. Heyman  
Joe A. Martinez  
Natacha Seijas  
Rebeca Sosa

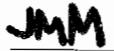
The Chairperson thereupon declared the resolution duly passed and adopted this 7th day of April, 2009. This resolution shall become effective ten (10) days after the date of its adoption unless vetoed by the Mayor, and if vetoed, shall become effective only upon an override by this Board.

MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA  
BY ITS BOARD OF  
COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

HARVEY RUVIN, CLERK

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Deputy Clerk

Approved by County Attorney as  
to form and legal sufficiency.



Jess M. McCarty

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