



MEMORANDUM

Agenda Item No. 11(A)(12)

TO: Honorable Chairman Joe A. Martinez
and Members, Board of County Commissioners

DATE: December 6, 2011

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

SUBJECT: Resolution urging the Florida
legislature to extend Florida's
anti-bullying law to private schools

The accompanying resolution was prepared and placed on the agenda at the request of Prime Sponsor Commissioner Barbara J. Jordan.



R. A. Cuevas, Jr.
County Attorney

RAC/cp



MEMORANDUM

(Revised)

TO: Honorable Chairman Joe A. Martinez
and Members, Board of County Commissioners

DATE: December 6, 2011

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

SUBJECT: Agenda Item No. 11 (A) (12)

Please note any items checked.

- "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**
- Ordinance creating a new board requires detailed County Manager's report for public hearing**
- No committee review**
- Applicable legislation requires more than a majority vote (i.e., 2/3's ____, 3/5's ____, unanimous____) to approve**
- Current information regarding funding source, index code and available balance, and available capacity (if debt is contemplated) required**

Approved _____ Mayor
Veto _____
Override _____

Agenda Item No. 11(A)(12)
12-6-11

RESOLUTION NO. _____

RESOLUTION URGING THE FLORIDA LEGISLATURE TO
EXTEND FLORIDA'S ANTI-BULLYING LAW TO PRIVATE
SCHOOLS

WHEREAS, during the 2008 session, the Florida Legislature passed an anti-bullying law, the Jeffrey Johnston Stand Up for All Students Act, Chapter 2008-123, Laws of Florida; and

WHEREAS, the Act was named for Jeffrey Johnston, who committed suicide in 2005 at age 15 after being victimized by a classmate's taunts, which were posted and remained on the Internet for more than a year; and

WHEREAS, the Act prohibited bullying and harassment of any public K-12 student or employee, and required school districts to adopt policies to protect students and school employees from the physical and psychological harm of bullying and harassment; and

WHEREAS, the Act applied to public schools, and did not extend to bullying in private schools; and

WHEREAS, bullying is not solely a problem of public schools, bullying can also occur in the private schools; and

WHEREAS, last year, 11-year-old Celina Okwuone, a student at a private school in Port St. Lucie, Florida committed suicide allegedly as a result of bullying; and

WHEREAS, while many private schools, including Celina's school, have anti-bullying policies in place that mirror the Jeffrey Johnston Act, others do not; and

WHEREAS, the Florida Legislature should extend the Jeffrey Johnston Act to private schools,

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

Section 1. Urges the Florida Legislature to extend Florida's anti-bullying law to private schools.

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

Section 3. Directs the County's state lobbyists to advocate for the issue identified in Section 1 above, and authorizes and directs the Office of Intergovernmental Affairs to amend the 2012 State legislation package to include this item and include this item in the 2013 state legislative package.

The Prime Sponsor of the foregoing resolution is Commissioner Barbara J. Jordan. 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:

Joe A. Martinez, Chairman	
Audrey M. Edmonson, Vice Chairwoman	
Bruno A. Barreiro	Lynda Bell
Esteban L. Bovo, Jr.	Jose "Pepe" Diaz
Sally A. Heyman	Barbara J. Jordan
Jean Monestime	Dennis C. Moss
Rebeca Sosa	Sen. Javier D. Souto
Xavier L. Suarez	

The Chairperson thereupon declared the resolution duly passed and adopted this 6th day of December, 2011. 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

5