MEMORANDUM

Agenda Item No. 11(A)(37)

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

DATE: November 8, 2012

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

SUBJECT: Resolution urging the Florida State Board of Education to revisit and revise the 2012-2018 State Board of Education Strategic Plan to eliminate provisions that set different student proficiency goals for different racial and ethnic groups

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

R. A. Cuevas, Jr.
County Attorney

RAC/cp

MEMORANDUM

(Revised)

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and Members, Board of County Commissioners

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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)(37)

11-8-12

RESOLUTION NO. _____

RESOLUTION URGING THE FLORIDA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION TO REVISIT AND REVISE THE 2012-2018 STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION STRATEGIC PLAN TO ELIMINATE PROVISIONS THAT SET DIFFERENT STUDENT PROFICIENCY GOALS FOR DIFFERENT RACIAL AND ETHNIC GROUPS

WHEREAS, section 1001.02(3)(a), Florida Statute, requires the State Board of Education every five years to "adopt a strategic plan that specifies goals and objectives for the state's public schools and Florida College System institutions"; and

WHEREAS, on October 9, 2012, the Florida State Board of Education adopted such a plan, entitled the Strategic Plan for the Public School System and the Florida College System, 2012-2018; and

WHEREAS, the 2012-2018 Strategic Plan is intended to guide the work of the Florida Department of Education for the next five years; and

WHEREAS, one aspect of the Strategic Plan sets different goals for different racial and ethnic groups of students, as well as different goals for English Language Learners, Students with Disabilities and Economically Disadvantaged students; and

WHEREAS, under the Strategic Plan, the proficiency of Florida public school students will be judged in part based on race and ethnicity, as set forth in Performance Indicator 1.3 of the Strategic Plan, an excerpt of which is attached; and

WHEREAS, for reading, the Strategic Plan sets the following goals for reading at or above grade level by 2018:

- 90 percent of Asian American students,
- 88 percent of Non-Hispanic White students,
- 81 percent of Hispanic students, and
- 74 percent of Black/African-American students; and

WHEREAS, for math, the Strategic Plan sets the following goals for students to be at or above their math grade level by 2018:

- 92 percent of Asian American students,
- 86 percent of Non-Hispanic White students,
- 80 percent of Hispanic students, and
- 74 percent of Black/African-American students; and

WHEREAS, these different goals for different racial and ethnic groups are interim goals to be achieved by 2018 with the ultimate goal of 100 percent proficiency among all racial and ethnic groups by 2023; and

WHEREAS, while these goals call for a more rapid rate of improvement for racial and ethnic groups with lower percentages of students currently performing at grade level, setting higher goals for Non-Hispanic White and Asian students and lower goals for Hispanic and African-American students is not the right message to send to either students or educators; and

WHEREAS, Florida's Strategic Plan for education should set goals to improve student performance equally for all students instead of setting separate goals for students based on race and ethnicity; and

WHEREAS, setting different goals for different racial and ethnic groups by 2018 has drawn criticism from a wide range stakeholders; and

WHEREAS, an official of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) called it "soft bigotry of low expectations"; and

WHEREAS, the Florida Hispanic Caucus, chaired by Senator Rene Garcia, urged the Department of Education to avoid tying education benchmarks to race or ethnicity; and

WHEREAS, the President of the Asian American Federation of Florida has indicated that the benchmarks are hurtful to Asian students because being perceived as higher achievers potentially harms Asian students who may be performing below average; and

WHEREAS, Governor Rick Scott has indicated that the Strategic Plan does not "articulate our shared commitment to fully close the achievement gap for all students, regardless of race, geography, gender or other circumstances"; and

WHEREAS, setting goals for students based on race and ethnicity sends the wrong message to students of all racial and ethnic groups,

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

Section 1. Urges the Florida State Board of Education to revisit and revise the 2012-2018 State Board of Education Strategic Plan to eliminate provisions that set different student proficiency goals for different racial and ethnic groups.

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

Section 3. Directs the County's state lobbyists to advocate for the action set forth in section 1 above, and authorizes and directs the Office of Intergovernmental Affairs to include this item in the 2013 State Legislative Package when it is presented to the Board.

The Prime Sponsor of the foregoing resolution is Commissioner Jean Monestime. 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	

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The Chairperson thereupon declared the resolution duly passed and adopted this 8th day of November, 2012. 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. JMM

Jess M. McCarty

1. PreK-12 Students				
Performance Indicator		Current (2011-12 unless noted)	2017-18 Goal	Notes
	1.3 Percentage of students scoring at or above grade level on statewide English Language Arts, science, and mathematics assessments by subgroup to reduce the achievement gap	Reading: • American Indian 55% • Asian 76% • Black/African American 38% • Hispanic 53% • White 69% • Economically Disadvantaged 46% • English Language Learners 33% • Students with Disabilities 29% Math: • American Indian 58% • Asian 82% • Black/African American 40% • Hispanic 55% • White 68% • Economically Disadvantaged 48% • English Language Learners 41% • Students with Disabilities 32%	Reading: • American Indian 82% • Asian 90% • Black/African American 74% • Hispanic 81% • White 88% • Economically Disadvantaged 78% • English Language Learners 72% • Students with Disabilities 71% Math: • American Indian 81% • Asian 92% • Black/African American 74% • Hispanic 80% • White 86% • Economically Disadvantaged 78% • English Language Learners 74% • Students with Disabilities 72%	Grade level is Level 3 and above on FCAT 2.0 The goals match the targets set in the federal ESEA waiver. They are calculated by cutting the percent scoring below grade level in half. The goals will be reviewed in 2014-15 when the new statewide assessment system is implemented.
	1.4 Percentage of students scoring Level 4 and above on statewide assessments in reading and mathematics	** 2010-11 data* Reading: 31% Math: 36%	Reading: 56% Math: 61%	The goals will be reviewed in 2014-15 when the new statewide assessment system is implemented.