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CLERK OF THE BOARD
OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA

# MEMORANDUM

Agenda Item No. 11(A)(16)

**TO:** Honorable Chairman Bruno A. Barreiro and Members, Board of County Commissioners

**DATE:** March 4, 2008

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

**SUBJECT:** Resolution urging Miami-Dade County Public Schools to reject proposals to close certain high-performing schools

**Resolution No. R-253-08**

The accompanying resolution was prepared and placed on the agenda at the request of Senator Javier D. Souto.

R. A. Cuevas, Jr.
County Attorney

RAC/jls

# MEMORANDUM
(Revised)

TO: Honorable Chairman Bruno A. Barreiro and Members, Board of County Commissioners

DATE: March 4, 2008

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

SUBJECT: Agenda Item No. 11(A)(16)

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 Manager'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)(16)
03-04-08

**RESOLUTION NO. R-253-08**

**RESOLUTION URGING MIAMI-DADE COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS TO REJECT PROPOSALS TO CLOSE CERTAIN HIGH-PERFORMING SCHOOLS**

**WHEREAS**, Miami-Dade County Public Schools (the "School Board"), like other local governments throughout the State of Florida, face difficult budget decisions as a result of potential budget cuts by the Florida Legislature and proposals to reduce property taxes; and

**WHEREAS,** the School Board is considering proposals to significantly reduce operating costs by closing 10 underenrolled elementary and middle schools, "repurposing" the buildings for other educational uses such as community learning centers or regional offices, and relocating the students from the closed schools to other public schools; and

**WHEREAS,** among the schools being considered for repurposing is Emerson Elementary School, which has a capacity of 600 students but has a current enrollment of 394 students; and

**WHEREAS,** the current proposal would relocate the Emerson students to Banyan Elementary School, which has a capacity of 740 students but has a current enrollment of 360 students; and

**WHEREAS,** although a policy of closing low-performing schools and transferring students to higher-performing schools would be sensible because it would afford those students with an opportunity for a better education, both Emerson Elementary and Banyan Elementary Schools are very high-performing schools whose excellent academic performance could be adversely impacted by the proposed merger; and

**WHEREAS,** parents whose children currently attend Emerson Elementary have expressed concern that the closing of Emerson Elementary would affect not only the children who benefit from the educational opportunities offered by a high-performing school but also the entire community and area businesses; and

**WHEREAS,** the policy of increasing enrollment at schools with under-enrollment in order to reduce operating costs must be balanced with the policy to maximize the number of schools that are performing at high academic standards,

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

Section 1. Urges Miami-Dade County Public Schools to reject any proposals to reduce operating costs by closing high-performing schools such as Emerson Elementary School and Banyan Elementary School.

Section 2. Directs the Clerk of the Board to transmit copies of this resolution to the Chair and Members of the Miami-Dade County School Board and the Superintendent of the Miami-Dade County Public Schools.

The foregoing resolution was sponsored by Senator Javier D. Souto and offered by Commissioner **Joe A. Martinez**, who moved its adoption. The motion was seconded by Commissioner **Sally A. Heyman** and upon being put to a vote, the vote was as follows:

Bruno A. Barreiro, Chairman **aye**
Barbara J. Jordan, Vice-Chairwoman **aye**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Jose "Pepe" Diaz | **aye** | Audrey M. Edmonson | **aye** |
| Carlos A. Gimenez | **aye** | Sally A. Heyman | **aye** |
| Joe A. Martinez | **aye** | Dennis C. Moss | **aye** |
| Dorrin D. Rolle | **aye** | Natacha Seijas | **aye** |
| Katy Sorenson | **absent** | Rebeca Sosa | **aye** |
| Sen. Javier D. Soutc | **aye** | | |

The Chairman thereupon declared this resolution duly passed and adopted this 4th day of March, 2008. 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: **Kay Sullivan**
Deputy Clerk

Approved by County Attorney as
to form and legal sufficiency.

Dennis A. Kerbel