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

MEMORANDUM Agenda Item No. 11(A)(12)

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

DATE: December 16, 2008

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

SUBJECT: Resolution urging the Florida Legislature to develop a Quality Rating System to assess prekindergarten and other early childhood education and child care programs and provide such information online so that parents have information necessary to make good early childhood decisions

Resolution No. R-1438-08

This resolution was amended by the Budget and Finance Committee to add the words underscored and/or >>double arrowed<< as indicated in the item.

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

R. A. Cuevas, Jr.
County Attorney

RAC/cp

MEMORANDUM

(Revised)

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

DATE: December 16, 2008

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

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

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)(12)
12-16-08

RESOLUTION NO. **R-1438-08**

RESOLUTION URGING THE FLORIDA LEGISLATURE TO DEVELOP A QUALITY RATING SYSTEM TO ASSESS PREKINDERGARTEN AND OTHER EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION AND CHILD CARE PROGRAMS AND PROVIDE SUCH INFORMATION ONLINE SO THAT PARENTS HAVE THE INFORMATION NECESSARY TO MAKE GOOD DECISIONS FOR THEIR CHILDREN

WHEREAS, according to the National Child Care Information Center (NCCIC), a Quality Rating System (QRS) is a method to assess, improve, and communicate to parents the level of quality in early childhood education and child care settings; and

WHEREAS, a QRS typically includes five elements:

1. Standards based on compliance with the state's child care licensing regulations and including two or more levels or tiers of quality criteria above basic licensing requirements;

2. Accountability through appropriate means of assessment and monitoring for compliance with the specific criteria of the standards;

3. Program and practitioner outreach and support including efforts to promote participation in the QRS, as well as technical assistance, training, mentoring, and other support;

4. Financial incentives specifically linked to compliance with quality standards, such as quality bonus payments, tiered reimbursement rates, contracts, quality grants, and wage supplements; and

5. Information for parents designed to ensure that parents understand the QRS and how it benefits children, families, and the early childhood education and child care system as a whole; and

WHEREAS, information for parents includes the development of a quality rating indicator or symbol that parents use as a consumer guide; and

WHEREAS, these symbols, which represent varying quality rating levels, are easy-to understand indicators of quality, such as a "three-star" or "gold level" that parents can use when making decisions about the care and education of their children; and

WHEREAS, NCCIC reports that the District of Columbia and 13 states (Colorado, Iowa, Kentucky, Maryland, Montana, New Hampshire, New Mexico, North Carolina, Ohio, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, Tennessee, and Vermont) have implemented a Quality Rating System; and

WHEREAS, in Florida, QRS information should be provided online so that parents have easy access to the information necessary to make good decisions for their children; and

WHEREAS, the Florida Early Learning Advisory Council has requested that the Agency for Workforce Innovation (AWI), the state agency that oversees voluntary prekindergarten programs in Florida, develop a proposal for a QRS in Florida; and

WHEREAS, Senator Nan Rich and Representative Loranne Ausley filed bills during the 2008 session, SB 1404 and HB 627, that would have established a Sunshine State Stars Quality Rating System in Florida, but these bills did not pass,

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 develop a quality rating system to assess prekindergarten and other early childhood education and child care programs and provide such information online so that parents have information necessary to make good early childhood

decisions >>, and include on the website a link to include the violations of each education and childcare provider.<<[1]

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

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

The Prime Sponsor of the foregoing resolution is Vice-Chairwoman Barbara J. Jordan. It was offered by Commissioner **Katy Sorenson**, who moved its adoption. The motion was seconded by Commissioner **Carlos A. Gimenez** 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	**absent**
Katy Sorenson	**aye**	Rebeca Sosa	**aye**
Sen. Javier D. Souto	**aye**		

[1]Words stricken through and/or [[double bracketed]] shall be deleted. Words underscored and/or >>double arrowed<< constitute the amendment proposed. Remaining provisions are now in effect and remain unchanged.

The Chairman thereupon declared the resolution duly passed and adopted this 16th day of December, 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.

Jess M. McCarty