

MEMORANDUM

Agenda Item No. 11(A)(10)

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

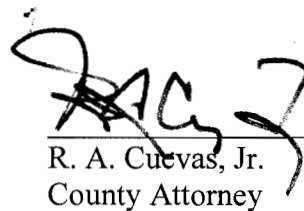
DATE: March 17, 2009

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

SUBJECT: Resolution supporting the
Miami-Dade County Public
Schools' state legislative
package and urging the Florida
Legislature to hold school
districts harmless from the
effects of property tax relief
and state budget shortfalls

Resolution No. R-300-09

The accompanying resolution was prepared and placed on the agenda at the request of Prime Sponsor Commissioner Joe A. Martinez, and Co-Sponsors Commissioner Audrey M. Edmonson, Commissioner Carlos A. Gimenez, Commissioner Sally A. Heyman, Commissioner Barbara J. Jordan, and Commissioner Katy Sorenson.



R. A. Cuevas, Jr.
County Attorney

RAC/up



MEMORANDUM

(Revised)

TO: Honorable Chairman Dennis C. Moss **DATE:** March 17, 2009
and Members, Board of County Commissioners

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

SUBJECT: Agenda Item No. 11(A) (10)

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)(10)
3-17-09

RESOLUTION NO. **R-300-09** _____

RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE MIAMI-DADE COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS' STATE LEGISLATIVE PACKAGE; URGING THE FLORIDA LEGISLATURE TO HOLD SCHOOL DISTRICTS HARMLESS FROM THE EFFECTS OF PROPERTY TAX RELIEF AND STATE BUDGET SHORTFALLS BY PROVIDING PER STUDENT FUNDING AT A LEVEL NO LOWER THAN THE FISCAL YEAR 2008-09 LEVEL; FURTHER URGING THE LEGISLATURE TO RESTORE THE LOCAL DISCRETIONARY CAPITAL OUTLAY LEVY TO 2-MILLS AND NOT PASS LEGISLATION THAT REDUCES THE NUMBER OF IN-SERVICE HOURS REQUIRED OF TEACHERS PROVIDING INSTRUCTION TO ENGLISH AS A SECOND LANGUAGE LEARNERS

WHEREAS, the Florida Constitution provides that the education of children is a fundamental value of the people of Florida and a paramount duty of the state; and

WHEREAS, the Florida Constitution creates a mandate for a uniform and high quality education system and for the state to make adequate provision for this purpose; and

WHEREAS, the Miami-Dade County Public Schools have experienced significant budget reductions in recent years of nearly \$300 million; and

WHEREAS, Florida employers consistently rank improving education and workforce development as top concerns to the success of their business, and a highly qualified, trained workforce as critical to strengthening our business climate; and

WHEREAS, the education system needs to respond to the workforce needs of Florida's employers, including programs that expand career academies in high schools, align career education with industry standards and workforce demands, and expand options for students to continue their education and enter the workforce; and

WHEREAS, the Pre-K-20 education system is the foundation for Florida's future, providing the talent base for economic diversification and an economic engine for the knowledge economy, and Florida should continue to move its education system at all levels into the top quartile in education quality, student rankings and graduation rates based on national standards; and

WHEREAS, funding a high-quality education system is an investment in our state's and our community's ability to compete nationally and globally in the marketplace; and

WHEREAS, adequate funding is needed to achieve a high-quality education system measured by gains in student achievement,

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

Section 1. Supports Miami-Dade County Public Schools' state legislative package and urges the Florida Legislature to:

- a. Fulfill its commitment to hold harmless the Miami-Dade County Public Schools from the effects of property tax relief and state budget shortfalls by providing per student funding at a level no lower than the Fiscal Year 2008-09 level of \$6,968.29 per student;
- b. Restore the local Discretionary Capital Outlay levy to 2-mills; and
- c. Not pass legislation that reduces the number of in-service hours required of teachers providing instruction to English as a Second Language Learners.

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 Chair and Members of the Miami-Dade County School Board.

Section 3. Directs the County's state lobbyists to advocate for the issue identified in Section 1 above, and directs that the 2009 state legislative package be amended to include this issue.

The Prime Sponsor of the foregoing resolution is Commissioner Joe A. Martinez, and the Co-Sponsors are Commissioner Audrey M. Edmonson, Commissioner Carlos A. Gimenez, Commissioner Sally A. Heyman, Commissioner Barbara J. Jordan, and Commissioner Katy Sorenson. It was offered by Commissioner **Dorrin D. Rolle**, who moved its adoption. The motion was seconded by Commissioner **Audrey M. Edmonson** and upon being put to a vote, the vote was as follows:

Dennis C. Moss, Chairman	aye		
Jose "Pepe" Diaz, Vice-Chairman	absent		
Bruno A. Barreiro	aye	Audrey M. Edmonson	aye
Carlos A. Gimenez	aye	Sally A. Heyman	aye
Barbara J. Jordan	aye	Joe A. Martinez	aye
Dorrin D. Rolle	aye	Natacha Seijas	aye
Katy Sorenson	aye	Rebeca Sosa	absent
Sen. Javier D. Souto	absent		

The Chairperson thereupon declared the resolution duly passed and adopted this 17th day of March, 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: **Kay Sullivan**
Deputy Clerk

Approved by County Attorney as
to form and legal sufficiency.

JMM

Jess M. McCarty