

Meyers, Robert (COE)

JNO 07 38

From: Meyers, Robert (COE)
Sent: Monday, March 12, 2007 2:19 PM
To: Meyers, Robert (COE)
Subject: Inquiry

I received a call from Gerald Sanchez who had a question pertaining to Commissioner Sosa and whether she has a conflict if she votes on a County Commission resolution supporting the School District's legislative package. In all likelihood, the legislative package sent to the Florida Legislature includes critical areas in need of funding. Commissioner Sosa works for the School District. I spoke to Victoria Frigo and we agreed that no conflict of interest exists if Commissioner Sosa votes on the resolution. Accepting the fact that the Commissioner is an employee, any benefit that may accrue to her as a result of a broadly-word resolution supporting more funding for Miami-Dade Public School is not likely to financially benefit the Commissioner. Furthermore, the County Commission is offering a resolution of support and has no legal authority to fund the District's operations. Finally, Ms. Frigo and I discussed the test the Florida Commission on Ethics would probably employ (public benefit vs. private gain) and we agreed the public benefit far exceeds any possible private gain in this case.

Robert Meyers, Executive Director
March 12, 2007

3/12/2007



Miami-Dade Legislative Item File Number: 070605

Printable PDF Format **Get Acrobat Reader**

File Number: 070605 **File Type:** Resolution **Status:** In Committee
Version: 0 **Reference:** **Control:** Budget and Finance Committee
File Name: SUPPORT PUBLIC SCHOOLS' STATE LEGISLATIVE INITIATIVES **Introduced:** 2/27/2007
Requester: NONE **Cost:** **Final Action:**
Agenda Date: 4/24/2007 **Agenda Item Number:** 11A
Notes: Title: RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE MIAMI-DADE COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS' STATE LEGISLATIVE INITIATIVES
Indexes: SCHOOLS **Sponsors:** Bruno A. Barreiro
 FUNDING SOURCE
Sunset Provision: No **Effective Date:** **Expiration Date:**
Registered Lobbyist: None Listed

Legislative History

Acting Body	Date	Agenda Item	Action	Sent To	Due Date	Returned	Pass/Fail
County Attorney	2/27/2007		Assigned	Jess M. McCarty			
County Attorney	2/27/2007		Assigned	Budget and Finance Committee	3/13/2007		

Legislative Text

TITLE

RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE MIAMI-DADE COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS' STATE LEGISLATIVE INITIATIVES

BODY

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 Constitution creates a clear mandate for a uniform and high quality education system and for the State to make adequate provision for this purpose; and
WHEREAS, Florida is one of the leaders in the nation in mandating public school educational accountability measures and Miami-Dade County School Board has earned a second straight grade of B in the state accountability system, falling just seven points short of the cutoff score for a grade of A; and
WHEREAS, the number of schools in Miami-Dade County, Florida, receiving a letter grade of A increased to 53 percent, the highest percentage ever, despite tougher state standards; and
WHEREAS, the Miami-Dade County School Board has constructed an additional 20,000 new student seats to address overcrowding using local funding; and
WHEREAS, the Miami-Dade County School Board will need approximately \$180 million in new monies above current funding levels to continue program enhancements; 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 is 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, aligning career education with industry standards and workforce demands, and expanding options for students to continue their education and enter the workforce; and
WHEREAS, the pre-K to 20 education system is a key 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, the Miami-Dade Board of County Commissioners believes that funding a high-quality education system is an investment in the ability to compete nationally and globally in the marketplace; and
WHEREAS, this Board believes that adequate funding is needed to achieve a high- quality education system measured by student achievement,
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA, that this Board supports the Miami-Dade County Public Schools' state legislative initiatives and requests that the Florida Legislature:
* Appropriate adequate funding to raise Miami-Dade's per- pupil funding sufficient to provide a rigorous, high quality educational experience for every student and continue initiatives that are successfully raising student achievement in the District; and
* Amend the Classrooms for Kids allocation formula for capital outlay funding to reflect actual capital outlay need.

[Home](#) | [Agendas](#) | [Minutes](#) | [Legislative Search](#) | [Lobbyist Registration](#) | [Legislative Reports](#)
[2007 BCC Meeting Calendar](#) | [Miami-Dade County Code of Ordinances](#)

[Home](#) | [Using Our Site](#) | [About](#) | [Phone Directory](#) | [Privacy](#) | [Disclaimer](#)

E-mail your comments, questions and suggestions to Webmaster

Web Site © 2007 Miami-Dade County.
All rights reserved.