

RESOLUTION No. 2006-31-377

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MIAMI GARDENS, FLORIDA, SUPPORTING THE MIAMI-DADE COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD 2006 LEGISLATIVE AGENDA; PROVIDING DIRECTIONS TO THE CITY CLERK; PROVIDING FOR THE ADOPTION OF REPRESENTATIONS, PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

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 The School Board of Miami-Dade County has improved its overall grade from C to B in the state accountability system, and

Whereas the number of schools in Miami-Dade County, Florida, receiving a letter grade of A increased to 48% – highest percentage ever – despite tougher state standards and the number of schools receiving a repeat grade of F was reduced by 66% to 3, and

Whereas the number of third graders considered proficient readers in Miami-Dade County Public Schools rose to 61% – the highest percentage ever – and 1,814 fewer third graders are at risk of being held back due to reading scores, and

Whereas Miami-Dade County Public Schools has reorganized its central office and eliminated more than 500 positions, freeing up \$38 million for other educational needs, and

Whereas The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, has constructed 18,000 new student seats to address overcrowding using local funds – more than three times the number planned by prior administrations– although the majority of state Classrooms for Kids allocations have gone to school districts without documented capital outlay needs, and

Whereas The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, will need approximately \$136 million in new monies above current funding levels to continue these initiatives, but the recent change in District Cost Differential could reduce the

District's share of annual funding by as much as \$78 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 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, ensuring excellence in education and workforce is a top strategic priority to achieve Enterprise Florida's vision of Florida as a global leader in knowledge-based jobs, leading-edge technology and competitive enterprises in the 21st century, and

Whereas, the pre-K-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 (pre-K-20) into the top quartile in education quality, student rankings and graduation rates based on national standards, and

Whereas, the City of Miami Gardens City Council believes that funding a high-quality education system is an investment in the ability to compete nationally and globally in the marketplace, and

Whereas, the City of Miami Gardens City Council believes that adequate funding is needed to achieve a high-quality education system measured by student achievement,

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MIAMI GARDENS, FLORIDA, AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. ADOPTION OF REPRESENTATIONS: The foregoing Whereas paragraphs are hereby ratified and confirmed as being true, and the same are hereby made a specific part of this Resolution.

Section 2. EXPRESSION OF SUPPORT: The Miami Gardens City Council supports the Miami-Dade County Public Schools' legislative initiative and requests that the Florida Legislature:

- a) 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;

b) use non-recurring funds to mitigate 100% of the loss due to the modification to the District Cost Differential; and

c) amend the Classrooms for Kids allocation formula for capital outlay funding to reflect actual capital outlay need.

Section 3. DIRECTIONS TO THE CITY CLERK. The City is hereby directed to send a certified copy of this resolution to the Miami-Dade County School Board.

Section 4. EFFECTIVE DATE: This Resolution shall take effect immediately upon its final passage.

PASSED AND ADOPTED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MIAMI GARDENS AT ITS REGULAR MEETING HELD ON APRIL 12, 2006.


SHIRLEY GIBSON, MAYOR

ATTEST:


RONETTA TAYLOR, OMC, CITY CLERK

Prepared by SONJA KNIGHTON DICKENS, ESQ.
City Attorney

SPONSORED BY: Danny Crew, City Manager

MOVED BY: Councilman Bratton
SECONDED BY: Councilman Harvard

VOTE: 4-0

Mayor Shirley Gibson	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> (Yes)	<input type="checkbox"/> (No)
Vice Mayor Oscar Braynon, II	<input type="checkbox"/> (Yes)	<input type="checkbox"/> (No) Not present
Councilman Melvin L. Bratton	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> (Yes)	<input type="checkbox"/> (No)
Councilman Aaron Campbell	<input type="checkbox"/> (Yes)	<input type="checkbox"/> (No) Out of town
Councilman Ulysses Harvard	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> (Yes)	<input type="checkbox"/> (No)
Councilwoman Sharon Pritchett	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> (Yes)	<input type="checkbox"/> (No)
Councilwoman Barbara Watson	<input type="checkbox"/> (Yes)	<input type="checkbox"/> (No) Out of town