

Office of School Board Members
Board Meeting of January 12, 2000

January 6, 2000

Dr. Marta Pérez, Member

SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION NO. 00-02 OF THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA, SUPPORTING FEDERAL GOVERNMENT INITIATIVES THAT PROVIDE LOCALLY CONTROLLED FUNDING FOR SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION AND RENOVATION

Miami-Dade County Public Schools continues to lack adequate school facilities to house its rapidly growing student population despite the bond referendum passed in 1988. And, the probability of passing another bond referendum in Miami-Dade County is unlikely. This presents the Board with the unique challenge of finding alternate sources of funding to accommodate the ever-increasing number of students entering our school system each year.

A solution to meeting the needs resulting from our school district's continued growth is federal and state funding that can be controlled locally by the School Board to ensure that it is distributed where it is most needed. Because of the nation's healthy economy, Congress has a rare opportunity to create a new partnership between the federal government, states and communities to improve the learning environment for our children.

General measures supported by this item are the direct allocation of allowable tax credits to large school districts and the expansion of the Qualified Zone Academy Bonds which provide funding for schools that are within an empowerment zone or enterprise zone, or schools that have thirty-five percent or more students participating in free and reduced-price lunch programs. The inclusion of these provisions in federal education appropriations bills will greatly benefit this school system by helping achieve the goals of smaller class sizes and more personalized education for all.

**ACTION PROPOSED BY
DR. MARTA PÉREZ:**

That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, approve Resolution No. 00-02 of the School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, supporting federal government initiatives that provide locally controlled funding for school construction and renovation.

**REPLACEMENT
B-7**

MP:js

RESOLUTION NO. 00-02 OF THE
SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA
SUPPORTING FEDERAL GOVERNMENT INITIATIVES THAT PROVIDE
LOCALLY CONTROLLED FUNDING FOR SCHOOL
CONSTRUCTION AND RENOVATION

WHEREAS, the lack of adequate school facilities to house Miami-Dade County Public Schools' burgeoning student population continues to be a challenge for this School Board; and

WHEREAS, resources to help the district meet this challenge head-on can be found in proposed federal government initiatives designed to provide local control of funding for school construction and renovation; and

WHEREAS, local control of federal and state funding will help ensure that those funds are distributed where they are needed most; and

WHEREAS, federal appropriations bills that authorize tax credits to large school districts and bonds that fund free and reduced-price lunch programs or schools within empowerment or enterprise zones will greatly benefit the district; and

WHEREAS, smaller class sizes and more personalized education for all will be more attainable through local control of federal funding;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, approve Resolution No. 00-02 of The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, supporting federal government initiatives that provide locally controlled funding for school construction and renovation.

A copy of this resolution is placed in the permanent records of this Board.

Presented this twelfth day of January, A.D. 2000

THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA

CHAIR

ATTEST:

Secretary