

RESOLUTION No. 2005-40-217

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MIAMI GARDENS, FLORIDA, URGING THE MIAMI-DADE LEGISLATIVE DELEGATION TO PROMOTE LEGISLATION FOR THE 2005 LEGISLATIVE SESSION WHEREBY THE CALCULATION OF THE DISTRICT COST DIFFERENTIAL FOR THE MIAMI-DADE COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD WOULD BE FROZEN UNTIL A STUDY CAN BE COMMISSIONED BY AN UNBIASED, QUALIFIED THIRD PARTY TO REVIEW THE VALIDITY OF THE DISTRICT COST DIFFERENTIAL AND TO RECOMMEND A MORE EQUITABLE CALCULATION; PROVIDING FOR DIRECTIONS TO THE CITY CLERK; PROVIDING FOR THE ADOPTION OF REPRESENTATIONS; PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

WHEREAS, the 2004 session of the Florida Legislature endorsed a new calculation of the District Cost Differential ("DCD") which purportedly adjusts educational funding for school districts both by cost of living and wage levels, and

WHEREAS, the entire calculation through a statistical technique allegedly adjusts wage levels for the value of amenities and trades wage levels for the imputed value of those amenities for wage levels, and

WHEREAS, the validity of this economic theory has not been independently reviewed by peer economists and educational finance experts as well as the appropriateness of the statistical technique utilized for such an adjustment, and

WHEREAS, the Florida Legislature never explicitly changed the statutory basis for the DCD calculation but merely implicitly endorsed the use of the revised calculation by the Florida Department of Education, and

WHEREAS, the use of the new amenities-adjusted DCD damages and decreases educational funding for the Miami-Dade County Public Schools by over \$26 million during 2004-2005, \$58 million during 2005-2006, and \$102 million when fully implemented in 2006-2007, and

WHEREAS, similar damaging effects result from the use of the revised DCD in 38 other Florida school districts, including Broward, Palm Beach, Volusia and Monroe

Counties, and

WHEREAS, the cumulative effect of this new version of the DCD will seriously impair the ability of affected districts to hire and retain qualified teachers and to offer a sufficient variety of educational programs to meet the diverse needs of its clients, and

WHEREAS, the quality and viability of public education is a necessary component for the economic well-being and development of a community and region,

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

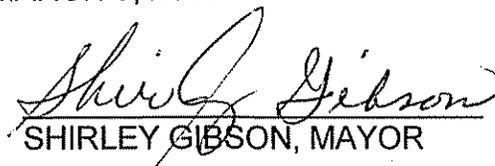
Section 1. ADOPTION OF REPRESENTATIONS: The foregoing Whereas paragraphs are hereby ratified and confirmed as being true, and the same are hereby made a specific part of this Resolution.

Section 2. RECOMMENDATION: The City Council for the City of Miami Gardens hereby requests that the Miami-Dade Legislative Delegation promote legislation for the 2005 Legislative Session, freezing the calculation of the DCD at its 2004-2005 level and commissioning a study by an unbiased, qualified third party to review the validity of the amenities-adjusted DCD and recommending a new, more equitable calculation methodology.

Section 3. DIRECTIONS TO THE CITY CLERK: The City Clerk is hereby directed to send a certified copy of this Resolution to the Miami-Dade Legislative Delegation, and 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 MARCH 9, 2005.


SHIRLEY GIBSON, MAYOR

ATTEST:


RONETTA TAYLOR, JMC, CITY CLERK

Prepared by SONJA KNIGHTON DICKENS, ESQ.
City Attorney

SPONSORED BY: DANNY O. CREW, CITY MANAGER

MOVED BY: Councilwoman Pritchett
SECONDED BY: Councilwoman Watson

VOTE: 6-0

Mayor Gibson	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> (Yes)	<input type="checkbox"/> (No)
Vice Mayor Campbell	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> (Yes)	<input type="checkbox"/> (No)
Councilman Melvin L. Bratton	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> (Yes)	<input type="checkbox"/> (No)
Councilman Oscar Braynon, II	<input type="checkbox"/> (Yes)	<input type="checkbox"/> (No) Not present
Councilwoman Audrey J. King	<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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> (Yes)	<input type="checkbox"/> (No)

SKD/bfc