


MEMORANDUM

February 6, 2012

TO: The Honorable Chair and Members of The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida

FROM: Alberto M. Carvalho, Superintendent of Schools 

SUBJECT: 2012 LEGISLATIVE UPDATE – January 30-February 3, 2012 - Week #4

Budget Update

The House Appropriations met on Wednesday, February 1, 2012, to hear its proposed appropriations bill for Fiscal Year 2012-2013. As you may recall, the House of Representatives' proposed budget totals an estimated \$69.2 billion, including increases to funding for K-12 schools of an estimated \$1 billion, and limited funds for school construction. The House Appropriations Bill is scheduled to be discussed for floor action this week and final passage on Friday, February 10, 2012.

Some highlights of the House budget proposal:

- Approximately \$277 million was transferred from trust funds, including \$91 million from the State and Local Government Housing Trust Funds into the General Fund, and \$120 million from the Transportation Trust fund to the State Schools Trust Fund.
- The Base Student Allocation (BSA) is increased by nearly \$100 per student, or 2.87 percent.
- Total funds are increased 3.48 percent on a statewide average, while Miami-Dade's increase is 3.91 percent. Miami-Dade's increase is \$83 million.
- School Recognition is increased by \$38.7 million, and Reading Instruction is increased by \$17 million. Both of these items represent an expenditure requirement for the District's share.
- The yield from local property taxes is down by an estimated \$247 million statewide, or 3.15 percent, but mitigated by an increase in state funding of \$824 million.
- New World School of the Arts is funded at \$400,000. There was discussion last legislative session that future funding would not be made available, so this is a huge victory.
- In the House Conforming Bill, the penalty related to non-compliance with class size reduction is reduced to half of the BSA, in lieu of the current full BSA until 2013-2014.

- In the House Higher Education Conforming Bill, the funding policy for co-enrollment policy is continued for two more years.

The Florida Senate still has not released its proposed appropriations bill.

HB 1852, sponsored by Senator Wise, relating to the continued expansion of charter schools, was scheduled in committee for Monday, January 30, 2012, in Senate Education PreK-12; however, the bill was not heard as the committee ran out of its allotted time and tabled the bill. The bill would require school districts to provide charter schools, on a per student basis, property taxes levied for school maintenance and construction. The bill would also require school districts to provide charter schools federal funds without any requirement to spend those funds for their intended purpose. SB 1852 has been scheduled to be heard on Monday, February 6, 2012. The companion bill, **HB 903**, sponsored by Representative Adkins, was heard in committee on Tuesday, January 31, 2012, in House K-12 Education Innovation. The House version no longer has the requirement to provide charter schools property tax yield from the 1.5 mills for capital. Remaining still is the language related to the federal funds.

Two of the Board's priorities, **HB 465**, sponsored by Representative Diaz, related to the General Obligation Bonds, and **HB 1343**, sponsored by Representative Fresen, related to flexibility in the allowable use of the current sales surtax, cleared the first committee of reference with a hearing on Tuesday, January 31, 2012, in House PreK-12 Appropriations Subcommittee. Both of these bills have been scheduled for a hearing in House Finance and Tax on Tuesday February 7, 2012. The Senate companions are scheduled for hearings as well. **SB 750**, sponsored by Senator Flores, related to General Obligation Bonds, is scheduled to be heard on Monday, February 6, 2012, in Senate Education, while **SB 980**, sponsored by Senator Margolis, related to the expansion of the allowable use of the current sales surtax, is scheduled for a hearing week six of session.

HB 1191, sponsored by Representative Bileca, relating to Parent Empowerment in Education, was heard and passed out of Rulemaking and Regulation Subcommittee, its second committee of reference. The bill has been modified from its original form. The district school board may adopt the turnaround option selected by parents or a different option selected by the school board. If the district school board does not adopt the parent-selected option, it must include that option with the implementation plan submitted to the State Board of Education. The state board may approve the district's plan or, if it determines that the parent-selected option is more likely to improve student performance at the school, require the school board to submit a plan for implementing the parent-selected option.

The Senate has passed **SB 98**, a bill promoting student-initiated prayer and other "inspirational messages" at public school assemblies. The bill passed by a vote of 31-8 on Wednesday, February 1, 2012, with some Democrats joining Republicans to support the measure. The bill will almost certainly be challenged in court. U.S. Supreme Court

decisions have banned state-sponsored prayer in public schools. A House version of the bill, **HB 317**, is stalled in committee.

If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact Ms. Iraida R. Mendez-Cartaya, Assistant Superintendent, Office of Intergovernmental Affairs, Grants Administration, and Community Engagement, at 305 995-1497.

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cc: School Board Attorney
Superintendent's Cabinet
Ms. Carolyn Nelson-Goedert