

MEMORANDUM

November 13, 2015

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

FROM: Alberto M. Carvalho, Superintendent of Schools *AMC*

SUBJECT: 2016 LEGISLATIVE SESSION – COMMITTEE WEEK OF NOVEMBER 2-6, 2015

The Florida Legislature met for its fourth week of interim committee meetings leading to the 2016 legislative session which included the conclusion of Special Session C related to redrawing Florida Senate seats. Many of the committees were cancelled as the Florida Legislature focused on redistricting.

REDISTRICTING

The 2015-C Special Session on Senate redistricting automatically adjourned, Sine Die, at 3:00 p.m., Friday, November 6, 2015, without an agreement between the chambers. As a result, the Court will be determining the Florida Senate districts in addition to the Congressional districts. The Senate and House passed their respective Senate maps and even met in conference and issued a conference report (tentative agreement). However, the Senate voted down the conference report 23-16, triggering another end of a session with no agreement between the two chambers.

SENATE PRESIDENCY

Senator Joe Negron will succeed Senator Gardiner as Senate President following an announcement from Senator (Jack) Latvala that he will drop his bid for the position and support Senator Negron. Instead, Senator Latvala will be Appropriations Chairman starting in November 2016.

GUNS ON CAMPUS

HB 4001, sponsored by Representative Steube, deleting the prohibition for someone with a concealed weapons license from openly carrying a handgun or carrying a concealed weapon or firearm into a college or university facility passed House Higher Education and Workforce Subcommittee. Its companion, SB 68, sponsored by Senator Evers is in Senate Judiciary.

EDUCATION FUNDING

HB 575, sponsored by Representative Costello, replaces revenue from required local effort property tax with revenue from sales tax. The required local effort education property tax would be eliminated from the local property tax levy beginning with the 2017-2018 fiscal year and a 2 percent education sales and use tax shall become effective on January 1, 2017, to build up funds for replacing the required local effort education funding on a dollar-for-dollar basis. At this point, no Senate companion has been filed. This proposal was previously introduced by Speaker Marco Rubio.

BREAKING UP SCHOOL DISTRICTS FILED

HB 539, sponsored by Representative Caldwell, proposes an amendment to State Constitution authorizing any contiguous area of the state whether a county or municipality to constitute school district through a general or special law. Its companion is SB 734 sponsored by Senator Brandes.

BOARD'S PRIORITY BILLS

Legislation related to revising the **Value Adjustment Board** proceedings has been refiled by Representative Avila and Senator Flores. The bill in the House is HB 499 and its Senate companion, SB 766, was just released from bill drafting.

HB 119 sponsored by Representative Bileca providing local school districts limited flexibility from the **State Requirements for Educational Facilities** was heard in House K-12 Education Subcommittee and passed unanimously. The Senate companion bill, SB 442, was filed by Senator Flores.

Senator Hutson has filed SB 704 related to the Florida Building Code which includes language that protects the Board's ability to continue its **iSwim program**. The House companion, HB 535, has been filed by Representative Eagle.

UPCOMING EVENTS

The next interim committee meetings are scheduled for the week of November 16-20, 2015.

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

AMC:ajo
M448

cc: School Board Attorney
Superintendent's Cabinet