

RESOLUTION 05-246

**A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF MIAMI LAKES, FLORIDA URGING THE MIAMI-DADE LEGISLATIVE DELEGATION TO PERSUADE THE FLORIDA LEGISLATURE TO UTILIZE THE 2004-2005 DISTRICT COST DIFFERENTIAL (DCD) UNTIL SUCH TIME THAT A NEW AND EQUITABLE CALCULATION FOR THE DCD MAY BE DEvised BY A QUALIFIED, UNBIASED THIRD PARTY; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.**

**WHEREAS**, the 2004 session of the Florida Legislature endorsed a new calculation of the District 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 \$12 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 to 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 TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF MIAMI LAKES, FLORIDA, AS FOLLOWS:**

**Section 1. Recitals.** The foregoing Recitals are true and correct and are incorporated herein by this reference.

**Section 2. Request of Legislative Delegation.** The Town Council of the Town of Miami Lakes urges the Miami-Dade Legislative Delegation to adopt as a major priority and non-negotiable objective for the 2005 legislative session, freezing the calculation of the DCD at its 2004-2005 level and the commissioning of a study by an unbiased, qualified third party to review the validity of the amenities-adjusted DCD and to recommend a new more equitable calculation methodology.

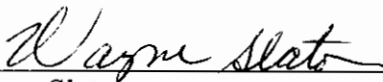
**Section 3. Effective Date.** This Resolution shall take effect immediately upon its adoption.

PASSED AND ADOPTED this 12 day of April, 2005.

Motion to adopt by Mary Collins, second by Nancy Simon.

FINAL VOTE AT ADOPTION


Mayor Wayne Slaton	<u>yes</u>
Vice Mayor Roberto Alonso	<u>yes</u>
Councilmember Mary Collins	<u>yes</u>
Councilmember Robert Meador	<u>yes</u>
Councilmember Michael Pizzi	<u>yes</u>
Councilmember Nancy Simon	<u>yes</u>
Councilmember Peter Thomson	<u>yes</u>

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Wayne Slaton  
MAYOR

ATTEST:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Debra Eastman, MMC  
TOWN CLERK

Approved as to form and legality for the use  
and benefit of the Town of Miami Lakes only:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Weiss, Serota, Helfman, Pastoriza Guedes  
Cole & Boniske, P.A.  
TOWN ATTORNEY