

CITY OF CORAL GABLES, FLORIDA

RESOLUTION NO. 2022-28

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COMMISSION URGING MIAMI-DADE COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS TO OFFER SELF-CONTAINED CLASSROOMS FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES IN PUBLIC ELEMENTARY, MIDDLE, AND HIGH SCHOOLS WITHIN THE CITY'S BOUNDARIES FOR FAMILIES WHO MAY NEED A MORE SPECIALIZED LEVEL OF SERVICE TO MEET THE EDUCATIONAL NEEDS OF THEIR CHILDREN.

WHEREAS, on December 1, 2021, the Coral Gables Advisory Board on Disability Affairs (the "DAB") passed a resolution urging the City Commission to support and request Miami-Dade County Public Schools ("MDCPS") to offer self-contained classrooms for students with disabilities in public elementary, middle, and high schools located within the City's boundaries; and

WHEREAS, the DAB resolution was presented to the School Community Relations Committee ("SCRC") on December 17, 2021, and a request was made for the SCRC's support; and

WHEREAS, in follow up to previous discussions at the SCRC regarding self-contained classrooms on October 15, 2021 and November 19, 2021, and in support of the DAB Resolution, the SCRC adopted its own resolution urging the City Commission to support and request that MDCPS offer self-contained classrooms at schools within the City's boundaries; and

WHEREAS, the federal Individuals with Disabilities Education Act ("IDEA") requires school districts to make a free appropriate public education ("FAPE") available to students with disabilities ages 3 through 21; and

WHEREAS, FAPE must include special education and related services that are provided by the public-school system at no cost to the parent, which meet the standards of the state and which are in conformity with the student's individual educational plan ("IEP"); and

WHEREAS, self-contained classrooms are one related service offered by MDCPS for students with disabilities; and

WHEREAS, a self-contained classroom is a class composed solely of children with special needs who have similar academic requirements and who would benefit from specialized services within a structured classroom setting; and

WHEREAS, the City Commission supports the DAB and SCRC on this matter and believes City residents should not have to take their children to public schools outside of the City because there are no self-contained classrooms within the City; and

WHEREAS, Coral Gables tax payers pay approximately \$0.37 cents of every ad valorem tax dollar to MDCPS, for a total contribution of approximately \$120,687,049.00 annually, and should be entitled to all services required to assist a child with a disability at a school located within the City’s limits;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF CORAL GABLES:

SECTION 1. That the foregoing “**WHEREAS**” clauses are hereby ratified and confirmed as being true and correct and are hereby made a specific part of this Resolution upon adoption hereof.

SECTION 2. That the City Commission urges the Miami Dade County Public School District and Board to offer self-contained classrooms for students with disabilities in public elementary, middle, and high schools located within the City’s boundaries for families who may need a specialized level of service to meet the educational needs of their children.

SECTION 3. That this Resolution shall become effective upon the date of its passage and adoption herein.

PASSED AND ADOPTED THIS TWENTY-FIFTH DAY OF JANUARY A.D., 2022.

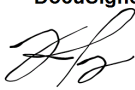
(Moved: Mena / Seconded: Anderson)

(Yeas: Anderson, Fors, Jr., Mena, Menendez, Lago)

(Unanimous: 5-0 Vote)


(Agenda Item: 2-1 and 2-2)

APPROVED:


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VINCE LAGO
MAYOR

ATTEST:

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BILLY Y. URQUIA
CITY CLERK

APPROVED AS TO FORM AND
LEGAL SUFFICIENCY:

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MIRIAM SOLER RAMOS
CITY ATTORNEY