

Ms. Evelyn Langlieb Greer, Board Member

SUBJECT: URBAN DEVELOPMENT BOUNDARY (UDB)

COMMITTEE: INNOVATION, EFFICIENCY & GOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS

For many years, the Board has been bitterly criticized for failing to build new schools and renovate old schools and for failing to keep up with the growth and changing residential patterns in Miami-Dade County. This failure led to the creation of the Land Oversight Committee, to the media and public scrutiny of the District construction program, to a complete overhaul of the method of building schools and, ultimately, to the selection of Dr. Rudolph Crew as Superintendent.

In April 2005, this Board approved the final draft of the Five-Year Capital Plan for Fiscal Years 2005-2009. For the first time in many years, this Capital Plan dealt comprehensively with overcrowding and outmoded schools through a well conceived program of new school construction, replacement of old schools, renovation of existing schools and elimination of portables. The Plan provided that in five years the District would meet the Class Size Reduction Constitutional amendment requirement for smaller classes, would eliminate overcrowding, and create a safe, modern learning environment for all children throughout the County.

The District does not have enough capital construction money to fund this entire Plan, and has asked the State in several letters for additional funding. Although the Class Size Reduction Constitutional amendment specifically requires the State to fund new school construction to meet the requirements of the amendment, last year's State allocation was less than the cost of one new high school.

The current movement to expand the Urban Development Boundary directly threatens the Five-Year Capital Plan. The expansion of the UDB will move hundreds of thousands of families from existing neighborhoods, where construction of new schools is underway or planned, to areas without schools or any other infrastructure. This will dramatically expand the District's service area just when the District was on the verge of finally bringing school facilities under control.

Further, the District's enrollment is stable, not growing, and its operating revenue based upon school enrollment is not increasing rapidly. The expansion of the UDB and the requirement to provide education to many new students in many new schools in the expansion areas will divert hundreds of millions of dollars of operating money from existing schools to new schools. Thus, existing schools will be deprived of programs, funding and staff that must instead be spread across a larger number of schools. This spreading of the District's revenues to many new areas will fundamentally reduce the money available to existing schools within the UDB.

Inevitably, the expansion of the UDB will necessitate a substantial school tax increase to fund the operation of schools, whether public or charter schools, in the expansion area. The District cannot operate so many more schools than planned with the same revenue unless local taxes make up the difference.

The expansion of the UDB to permit residential construction is opposed by Monroe County, the Monroe County School Board, by twelve municipalities in Miami-Dade County, and by numerous organizations and residents. Attached is the particularly poignant Resolution from Monroe County, which is desperately worried about maintaining safe hurricane evacuation routes in light of the ten years of increased hurricane activity, predicted for Florida. (Attachment A)

The Board should adopt a resolution opposing the expansion of the Urban Development Boundary for residential construction because such residential construction outside the UDB undermines the Five Year Capital Plan by diverting funds from planned new school construction, replacement and renovation and jeopardizes the funding of existing schools by spreading already insufficient funding to even more schools and areas.

ACTION PROPOSED BY

MS. EVELYN LANGLIEB GREER:

That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida:

1. opposes the expansion of the Urban Development Boundary for residential construction because such residential construction outside the UDB undermines the District's Five Year Capital Plan by diverting capital funds from planned new school construction, replacement and renovation and jeopardizes the funding of existing schools by spreading already insufficient funding to even more schools and areas.

ATTACHMENT A

School Board of Monroe County Resolution 633

A RESOLUTION OF THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MONROE COUNTY, FLORIDA, VOICING ITS OPPOSITION TO THE CONTINUED DEVELOPMENT OF THE SOUTHEASTERN QUARTER OF UNINCORPORATED MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, AND THE INCORPORATED CITIES THEREIN AND DIRECTING THE SUPERINTENDENT OF THE MONROE COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT TO FORWARD A COPY OF THIS RESOLUTION TO THE GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF FLORIDA AND THE STATE CABINET, THE SECRETARY OF THE FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY AFFAIRS, THE SECRETARY OF THE FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION, THE CHAIRMAN OF THE SOUTH FLORIDA REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL, THE CHAIRMAN OF THE SOUTH FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT, THE MAYORS OF EACH INCORPORATED AREA OF SOUTHEASTERN MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, THE MAYOR OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

WHEREAS, the School Board of Monroe County is located at 241 Trumbo Road, Key West, Florida, 33040, and objects to the proposed movement of the Miami-Dade Urban Development Boundary Line, and;

WHEREAS, the School Board of Monroe County has recently changed the building standards for its schools based upon current and projected population numbers that were not inclusive of the serious impact that development of the southeastern quarter of Miami-Dade County will have on the safety and economic considerations of the School Board of Monroe County, and;

WHEREAS, there are approximately 50,000 new homes and commercial properties under construction with approved building permits in the Southeastern portion of Miami-Dade County, and;

WHEREAS, numerous developers are proposing developments of regional impact for the continued growth of the southeastern section of Miami-Dade County including one proposed development with 6,000 residential units at the North boundary of the Florida Keys Area of Critical Concern, and;

WHEREAS, the continued development to the southeastern quarter of unincorporated Miami-Dade County, will exacerbate the existing strain on the limited resources of the School District of Monroe County infrastructure, and;

ATTACHMENT A

WHEREAS, in recent years, the State of Florida's funding to the Monroe County School District has been significantly reduced, increasing the local burden on ensuring the best possible educational opportunity for the children of Monroe County, and;

WHEREAS, as a result of the designation as an Area of Critical State Concern, the Florida Keys must adhere to stringent growth management regulations specifically for the purpose of a twenty-four hour evacuation notice and the development of the southeastern quarter of Miami-Dade County will place the current children of Monroe County at risk by restricting their ability to evacuate Monroe County expeditiously, and;

WHEREAS, millions of dollars have been spent by the Monroe County School District developing the physical schools and logistical concerns as related to the current and projected student population which have not included any burden that would result from development of the southeastern quarter of Miami-Dade County, and;

WHEREAS, the continued uncontrolled development of this sensitive area will negatively impact the fragile environment of the Florida Keys, hurricane evacuation standards, the potable water supply and the unique character and quality of life of the residents and visitors of Monroe County and the Florida Keys,

THEREFORE, be it resolved by the School Board of Monroe County, Florida, that:

Section 1. The School Board of Monroe County opposes the growth of Southeastern Miami-Dade County, specifically that which will place a financial burden on the educational system in Monroe County and increased the difficulty in meeting the State's Class-Size Reduction Law.

Section 2. The School Board of Monroe County strongly opposes the continued uncontrolled growth of Southeastern Miami-Dade County, particularly that which will dramatically affect the safety of the children in Monroe County by limited egress in times of emergency.

Section 3. The School Board of Monroe County opposes the movement of the Miami-Dade Urban Development Boundary Line.

Section 4. The Monroe County School District Superintendent is directed to forward a certified copy of this Resolution to the Governor of the State of Florida and the Florida Cabinet, the Secretary of the Florida Department of Community Affairs, the Secretary of the Florida Department of Environmental Protection, the South Florida Regional Planning Council, the South Florida Water Management District, the Mayors of all cities in Southeastern Miami-Dade

ATTACHMENT A

County and the Mayor of Miami-Dade County.

Section 5. This resolution shall take effect immediately upon its adoption.

Passed and Adopted by the School Board of Monroe County, Florida, at a regular meeting of said School Board held on the 28th day of July, 2005.

Eileen Quinn	Yes
Debra Walker	Yes
Andy Griffiths	Yes
Anne Cohan	Yes
Duncan Mathewson	Yes

SCHOOL BOARD OF MONROE COUNTY

BY: *Eileen Quinn*
Eileen Quinn, Chair

BY: *Randy Acevedo*
Randy Acevedo, Superintendent

(SEAL)