

Ms. Evelyn Langlieb Greer, Board Member

SUBJECT: URBAN DEVELOPMENT BOUNDARY

COMMITTEE: INNOVATION, EFFICIENCY & GOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS

The Board has the responsibility for providing input to the Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) as to the impact on School District operations of BOCC land use decisions, especially since the School District will be required to provide greatly expanded public school services as a result of such land use decisions.

For many years, the Board has been 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.

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.

Student enrollment in the District has decreased for four years in a row and is expected to continue to decrease, leading to decreases in state funding based upon enrollment. State funding has is expected to decrease each year as enrollment declines. Further, the federal government has advised the District that a one percent across the board cut in federal school funding is likely this year.

The current movement to expand the Urban Development Boundary (UDB) undermines the Five-Year Capital Plan by expanding the service area for public schools without increasing operating revenue. The expansion of the UDB will move tens of thousands of families from existing neighborhoods, where construction of new schools is underway, to areas without schools or infrastructure. This will dramatically expand the District's service area but not increase the student enrollment or the revenue with which the District has to operate.

**REPLACEMENT
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The expansion of the UDB and the requirement to provide education to existing students who simply move to new schools in the expansion areas will divert hundreds of millions of dollars of operating money from existing schools. Thus, existing schools will be deprived of funding, programs 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.

The expansion of the UDB creates pressure to increase school taxes 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 Board has the responsibility for providing input to the Board of County Commissioners as to the impact on School District operations of land use decisions. The board should advise the BOCC that the expansion of the Urban Development Boundary to permit residential construction in a large new area in which the School District must provide public schools services negatively impacts the School District Capital Plan 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:

Resolved, that the Board hereby advises the Miami-Dade County Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) that the expansion of the Urban Development Boundary (UDB) to permit residential construction negatively impacts the School District 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 more schools and new residential areas.