

RESOLUTION No. 09 – 62

A RESOLUTION OF THE MAYOR AND THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF DORAL, FLORIDA URGING THE FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION TO MAINTAIN CURRENT TRAINING REQUIREMENTS FOR READING TEACHERS OF ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNERS IN FLORIDA'S PUBLIC SCHOOLS; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE

WHEREAS, the United States District Court for the Southern District of Florida, Miami Division, Case No. 90-1913, issued a Consent Decree in *LULAC v. Florida Board of Education*, in 1990 calling for equal access to all education programs for English Language Learner (ELL) students, including a mandate for English as a second language (ESOL) endorsement for all teachers of the English language to ELL students; and

WHEREAS, a 2003 court approved Modification to the *LULAC v. Florida Board of Education* Consent Decree (Case No. 90-1913) requires teachers who earn ESOL Certification coverage solely by passing the teacher examination to additionally have to earn 120 points of in-service credit in ESOL; and

WHEREAS, proposed State Board of Education rule 6A-6.0907 (4) would waive the requisite ESOL in-service training requirements for Reading endorsed or certified teachers who seek to earn ESOL certification coverage through the teacher test; and

WHEREAS, in 2007 and 2008 legislative efforts to weaken the training requirements for reading teachers of ELL students failed, but a current administrative move by the Florida Department of Education again threatens to reduce training requirements; and

WHEREAS, section 1003.56 (1), Florida Statutes, entitled "English language instruction for limited English proficient students," is designed to develop the student's mastery of the four language skills, including listening, speaking, reading, and writing, as rapidly as possible; and

WHEREAS, this Council wants all children to read English, wants teachers to prepare them to read, and wants monitoring to ensure compliance with the requirements stated in the Consent Decree referenced above; and

WHEREAS, it makes little sense to withdraw support from children who are already struggling; and

WHEREAS, at a time when we must strive to be as competitive as possible in a quickly changing global economy, we cannot afford to lower the bar of expectations and training for our highly qualified teachers; and

WHEREAS, it is the view of this Board that maintaining the existing training requirements for reading teachers of ELL students is in the best interests of the citizens and residents of Miami-Dade County,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF DORAL AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. The City Council of the City of Doral urges the Florida Department of Education to maintain current training requirements for reading teachers of English Language Learner students.

Section 2. The City Clerk is directed to transmit certified copies of the resolution to the Governor, Senate President, House Speaker, the Chair and Members of the Miami-Dade State Legislative Delegation and the Commissioner of the Florida

Department of Education.

Section 3. The City's state lobbyists are directed to advocate for the issue identified in Section 1 above.

Section 4. This Resolution shall take effect immediately upon adoption.

The foregoing resolution was offered by Vice Mayor DiPietro who moved its adoption. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Ruiz and upon being put to a vote, the vote was as follows:

Mayor Juan Carlos Bermudez	Yes
Vice Mayor Michael DiPietro	Yes
Councilman Pete Cabrera	Yes
Councilwoman Sandra Ruiz	Yes
Councilman Robert Van Name	Yes

PASSED and ADOPTED this 13th day of May, 2009.



JUAN CARLOS BERMUDEZ, MAYOR

ATTEST:



BARBARA HERRERA, CITY CLERK

APPROVED AS TO FORM AND
LEGAL SUFFICIENCY:



JOHN HEARN, ESQ., CITY ATTORNEY