

RESOLUTION NO. _____

A RESOLUTION OF THE MAYOR AND CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF MIAMI BEACH, FLORIDA, URGING THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS TO DEVELOP A PLAN FOR THE FINAL MARKING PERIOD PERTAINING TO ACADEMIC PERFORMANCE THAT WOULD ACCOUNT FOR STUDENT STRESS LEVELS, LEARNING ENVIRONMENTS AND OBLIGATIONS DURING THIS UNPRECEDENTED GLOBAL PANDEMIC.

WHEREAS, coronavirus disease 2019 ("COVID-19"), a severe acute respiratory illness caused by the SARS-CoV-2 virus that can spread rapidly from person to person and cause serious illness or death, constitutes a clear and present threat to the lives, health, welfare and safety of the people of the City of Miami Beach; and

WHEREAS, on March 9, 2020, Governor Ron DeSantis issued Executive Order 20-52, declaring a state of emergency for the entire State of Florida as a result of COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, on March 11, 2020, the World Health Organization declared the rapidly spreading coronavirus outbreak a pandemic; and

WHEREAS, in order to prevent further spread of COVID-19, all schools around the country, including the state of Florida, suspended in-class learning and transitioned into virtual classes; and

WHEREAS, online learning is incomparable to the experience and learning that one may have in the class and during in-person lectures and it is much more difficult for schools to ensure that students have comparable access to learning tools, instruction, technology, and wrap-around services; and

WHEREAS, although many students may transition seamlessly to learning online, there will be an indisputable part of the student body that will face difficulties in focusing and/or truly understanding class material; and

WHEREAS, many students' working environments, and their obligations such as supervising siblings at home are not conducive to learning and academic achievement; and

WHEREAS, in addition, many students are experiencing a tremendous amount of pressure as they witness family members' struggling with physical or mental health issues which may be caused by illness and/or financial pressures, and job losses during this pandemic.

WHEREAS, as such, grading, especially during widespread school closures, brings into question equity and fairness; and

WHEREAS, in an effort to address grade disparities, public universities and some K-12 districts in Florida have offered grade relief to their students to ensure that existing grading practices take into consideration the disparities that school closures have created; and

WHEREAS, for example, Leon County School Board implemented a plan for final quarter grades, which will assess academic performance by averaging the student's first three nine-weeks grades and choosing whichever is higher; and

WHEREAS, student and family stress levels cannot be discounted or overlooked during this unprecedented pandemic crisis, and students attending K-12 schools should not be held to stricter standards than college and university students; and

WHEREAS, Miami-Dade County Public Schools School Board member, Dr. Martin Karp, submitted an agenda item for the School Board's May 20, 2020 meeting to consider a plan for grading options that would account for student stress levels and learning environments; and

WHEREAS, as such, the Mayor and City Commission express support for Dr. Karp's proposed action and urge the School Board of Miami-Dade County Public Schools to develop a plan for the final marking period pertaining to academic performance in a way that would account for student stress levels, learning environments, and obligations during this unprecedented pandemic.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT DULY RESOLVED BY THE MAYOR AND CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF MIAMI BEACH, FLORIDA, that the Mayor and City Commission hereby urge the School Board of Miami-Dade County Public Schools to develop a plan for the final marking period pertaining to academic performance that would account for student stress levels, learning environments, and obligations during this unprecedented global pandemic.

PASSED AND ADOPTED this _____ day of _____, 2020.

ATTEST:

Dan Gelber, Mayor

Rafael E. Granado, City Clerk

(Sponsored by Commissioner Micky Steinberg)

APPROVED AS TO
FORM & LANGUAGE
& FOR EXECUTION



City Attorney

5/12/2020
Date