



The School Board of Broward County, Florida

RESOLUTION

No. 09-55

Resolution in Support to Provide Portable Classrooms to the Government of Haiti to Assist in its Recovery Effort

WHEREAS, Haiti experienced four devastating hurricanes during a six week period last fall, which caused an enormous loss of life, destroyed the country's bridges, many of the roads, 165,000 people have been left homeless, and the existing schools have been put into service as shelters for the homeless; and

WHEREAS, in many parts of the country, students have not been able to return to school due to lack of facilities and in recent weeks, the collapse of two schools has also called into question the structural integrity of those schools still in operation; and

WHEREAS, The School Board of Broward County, Florida, has expressed a desire to help the Government of Haiti provide educational opportunities for the nearly 500,000 Haitian children; and

WHEREAS, several staff members in the Facilities and Construction Management Division, having family ties to Haiti, petitioned the Deputy Superintendent of Facilities and Construction Management to develop a plan to assist the Government of Haiti in its recovery efforts, and

WHEREAS, The Deputy Superintendent approached Board Member Ben Williams about sending surplus portables to Haiti and after surveying the Broward County Haitian Community, which enthusiastically embraced the idea, formed a committee to assist in the effort; and

WHEREAS, October 5, 2008, President Preval and his senior staff met with Mr. Williams, Mr. Garretson and Mr. Israel Canales, Manager, for over three hours to discuss the proposal which was enthusiastically embraced; and

WHEREAS, On November 12, 2008, the Broward School Board declared surplus the first 93 portable units to be sent to Haiti and

WHEREAS, the understanding between the School Board of Broward County and the Government of Haiti is the Board will make available up to 600 20 year old portables over a phased period, based on the Haitian Government's ability to prepare for the installation of the units, and

WHEREAS, the agreement states that the District will provide the portables to the Government of Haiti, deliver them to Port Everglades, and the Government of Haiti assumes responsibility of transportation delivery and set up in Haiti; and

WHEREAS, the cooperation received from the Port Everglades Authority, its Director Paul Allen, Port Operations Director, Bob Flint, and The Port Authority under the direction of the Board of County Commissioners, who have waived all port costs and fees related to this humanitarian effort, has been outstanding and deserves huge credit.

WHEREAS, the Walmart Corporation, promises to equip every portable with school supplies and hopefully, other companies will come forward to contribute to this enormous effort.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, The School Board of Broward County Florida, in conjunction with the Board of County Commissioners, Port Everglades Authority and Port Operations support this great enormous humanitarian endeavor.

Given at Fort Lauderdale Florida this 16th day of December 2008.

THE SCHOOL BOARD OF BROWARD COUNTY FLORIDA

BY: _____
Maureen S. Dinnen, Chair

ATTEST: _____
James F. Notter, Superintendent of Schools