

RESOLUTION 2013-03

A RESOLUTION OF THE OF THE CITY OF ST. PETE BEACH, FLORIDA IN SUPPORT OF PINELLAS COUNTY PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL ACADEMY BY THE SEA.

Whereas, the City of St. Pete Beach's Vision Statement urges that we be a community where ideals and principles are valued, where accomplishment and talent are prized and will be home to families and other residents who enjoy safe, healthy and attractive neighborhoods; and

Whereas, the City of St. Pete Beach's Mission Statement notes that our city exists to provide, promote and preserve a superior social, economic and physical environment; and

Whereas, the City of St. Pete Beach lists its core values and the first one on the list states that our city will be a family-friendly beach community atmosphere; and

Whereas, children make up a significant percentage of our population; and

Whereas, it is critical that our children have easy safe access to education and learning in order to prepare them for life as adults and future leaders of our community; and

Whereas, the community of St. Pete Beach has a long history of both public and private schools, an integral part of our community, dating back to 1915; and

Whereas, the Pinellas County School Board saw fit to close our only public school in June 2009, after six decades of community operation; and

Whereas, the community of St. Pete Beach has been without a public educational facility for more than three years; and

Whereas, there is an effort underway to establish "Academy by the Sea", a proposed charter public school to be located in St. Pete Beach by a local group of parents and residents who have applied to open a public educational institution to serve grades 4 through 8; and

Whereas, the addition of a public charter school will enhance the quality of life for the citizens of St. Pete Beach and its surroundings. Academy by the Sea would not only offer the children in our area a local public school option, but would also attract new families that keep our community thriving; and

Whereas, the "Academy by the Sea's" academic curriculum will be based on the Montessori inquiry-based teaching methodology, which teaches concepts of independence, cooperation and courtesy that prepare students to become leaders in the local and global community; and

Whereas, the Pinellas County School Board currently operates 21 Public Charter Schools in Pinellas County; and

Whereas, the charter school option provides local organizers the autonomy to offer rigorous high-level education to the children of our barrier island area while offering tuition free public education open to all; and

Whereas, if the application by "Academy by the Sea's" application is approved, it is hoped to have approximately 132 students join for the 2013-14 school year providing the community of St. Pete Beach its first public school after a break of four years in our more than half-century history of public local education.

Now Therefore, Be it Resolved, that the St. Pete Beach City Commission supports and endorses the establishment of a Charter Public School, Academy by the Sea within the City.

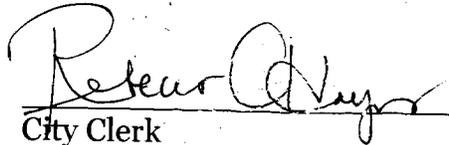
Be it further Resolved, that the City of St. Pete Beach asks the Pinellas County School board to approve the vote to be taken on Academy by the Sea's Application.

Adopted this 26th day of February, 2013



MAYOR

ATTEST:



City Clerk