

Office of School Board Members  
Board Meeting of January 13, 1999

January 8, 1999

Demetrio Pérez, Jr., M.S., Member

**SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION NO. 98-57 PROPOSED BY DEMETRIO PÉREZ, JR. OF THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA, HONORING JOSÉ MARTÍ, AN EDUCATOR AND THE MARTYRED SYMBOL OF CUBAN ASPIRATIONS TO INDEPENDENCE, DURING A COMMUNITY CELEBRATION DEDICATED TO HIS MEMORY, JANUARY 28, 1999 – JOSÉ MARTÍ DAY**

January 28, 1999, marks the 146th birthday of José Julián Martí—Cuba's greatest hero, poet, statesman, and democratic revolutionary. Considered the apostle of Cuban independence, Martí published many writings advocating independence from Spain. Even at the age of 15, he was arrested for writing letters against Spanish rule. Martí wrote, "Liberty is the right of every man to be honest, to think, and to speak without hypocrisy." He ultimately died fighting for Cuban independence in a battle with Spanish troops in Dos Ríos, Cuba at the young age of 42.

Although trained as a lawyer, Martí devoted much of his energy to writing and teaching. He was the precursor of "modernismo" in Spanish letters and noted for his simple, fluent style and vivid imagery. Martí was a firm believer in public education and was a teacher in Venezuela, Guatemala, and New York. He declared that, "Education is like a tree; the seed is sown, and it opens out into many branches." Martí's life will ever remain a testament to the lives of all men and women who live by great ethical and moral values and standards. As School Board Members, we must strive to instill these essential character traits in our children. Martí wrote, "It is necessary to make virtue fashionable." As elected officials representing the best interests of children, we must help to make this so.

**ACTION PROPOSED BY  
DEMETRIO PÉREZ, JR.:**

That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, approve Resolution 98-57 proposed by Demetrio Pérez, Jr. of The School Board of Miami-Dade County Florida, honoring José Martí, an educator and the martyred symbol of Cuban aspirations to independence, during a community celebration dedicated to his memory, January 28, 1999 – José Martí Day.

DP:jm

**REPLACEMENT  
B-2**

RESOLUTION NO. 98-57 OF THE  
SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA  
HONORING JOSÉ MARTÍ, AN EDUCATOR AND THE MARTYRED SYMBOL OF  
CUBAN ASPIRATIONS TO INDEPENDENCE, DURING A COMMUNITY  
CELEBRATION DEDICATED TO HIS MEMORY, JANUARY 28, 1999 –  
JOSÉ MARTÍ DAY

WHEREAS, January 28, 1999, marks the 146th birthday of José Martí, Cuba's greatest hero, poet, statesman, and democratic revolutionary, and our community will hold commemorative events and celebrations dedicated to his memory in which MDCPS' students will be encouraged to participate; and

WHEREAS, José Martí spoke and wrote about Cuba and the aspirations of the Cuban people for liberty and sovereignty and died in a battle with Spanish troops fighting for Cuban freedom; and

WHEREAS, José Martí was the precursor of "modernismo" in Spanish letters, and his works occupy a place of honor in the history of Spanish literature; and

WHEREAS, José Martí chose to teach because he loved children, was vitally interested in education, and believed that to have a nation of free men, schools should train children to think and have free minds; and

WHEREAS, José Martí was a man of genius, imagination, hope, and courage and gave all for his principles without thinking of any selfish return for himself;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT:**

The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, approve Resolution No. 98-57 proposed by Demetrio Pérez, Jr. of The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, honoring José Martí, an educator and the martyred symbol of Cuban aspirations to independence, during a community celebration dedicated to his memory, January 28, 1999 – José Martí Day.

A copy of this resolution is placed in the permanent records of this Board.

Presented this thirteenth day of January, A.D. 1999

THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA

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CHAIR

ATTEST:

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Secretary