

Dr. Robert B. Ingram, Board Member

**SUBJECT: DIRECT THE SUPERINTENDENT TO ESTABLISH PROCEDURES FOR
RECOGNIZING AND HONORING THOSE INDIVIDUALS FOR WHOM A
SCHOOL IS NAMED**

**STRATEGIC PLANNING GOALS: II - STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT/PREPARATION
FOR POST SECONDARY EXPERIENCES
III - READING/LANGUAGE ARTS
V - MULTICULTURAL EDUCATION**

Over one-hundred of Miami-Dade County Public Schools have been named for individuals. These persons have been recognized for their significant contributions at the local, state, national or international level. The list includes a wide variety of distinguished individuals including explorers, pioneers, presidents, elected officials, teachers, principals, poets, authors, and community activists. The list also reflects diversity, with individuals from various racial, ethnic, and cultural backgrounds being honored. Each of these individuals must be honored and remembered for their achievements and contributions, both past and present. With this goal in mind, it is recommended that specific procedures be established by the district to recognize the accomplishments of those individuals for whom a school is named.

It is recommended that a plaque or some other appropriate means for displaying a brief biography of the person for whom a school is named be prominently displayed at the school. The biography should include a brief description of the person's life and his/her contributions and accomplishments.

It is further recommended that the biography be printed in public documents developed by the school such as the faculty, student, and parent handbooks. It is also recommended that the district office establish procedures to publish and continually update a document describing the achievements and contributions of each individual for whom a school is named.

It is also recommended that a district-wide student writing contest be organized for the purpose of recognizing and honoring each individual for whom a school is named. The proposed contest will support the district's efforts to improve student achievement and additionally help students prepare for the writing portion of the Florida Comprehensive Achievement Test. The guidelines for the writing contest and prize incentives for participating students will be developed by appropriate district staff. Contest rules and guidelines will also include appropriate writing activities for students that do not attend schools named for an individual. It is further recommended that each school named for an individual, produce a videotape or other multimedia presentation in honor of the person for whom the school is named.

RECOMMENDED: That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, direct the Superintendent to:

1. establish procedures for recognizing and honoring those individuals for whom a school is named, including prominently displaying a brief biography of the person at the school;
2. publish the biography of the individual for whom the school is named in public documents produced by the school;
3. publish and continually update a biographical listing of all schools in the district named for an individual;
4. organize a district-wide student writing contest to honor those individuals for whom a school is named;
5. encourage schools to produce a videotape or other multimedia presentation in honor of the person for whom the school is named; and
6. implement recommendations 1-5 by the beginning of the 2000-2001 school year.

No local funds are required.