

Dr. Robert B. Ingram, Member

**SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION NO. 01-45 OF THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA, (1) TO SUPPORT THE INITIATIVES OF THE CHOCOLATE MANUFACTURERS ASSOCIATION IN THE ELIMINATION OF FORCED CHILD LABOR IN THE PRODUCTION OF COCOA BEANS AND COCOA-DERIVED PRODUCTS, AND (2) TO ADVISE MAJOR PRODUCERS AND DISTRIBUTORS OF COCOA-DERIVED PRODUCTS OF THE SCHOOL SYSTEM'S POSITION SUPPORTING THE INITIATIVES OF THE CHOCOLATE MANUFACTURERS ASSOCIATION IN THE ELIMINATION OF FORCED CHILD LABOR**

An article in the June 24, 2001 issue of The Philadelphia Inquirer reported that African boys as young as eleven are often sold or tricked into slavery to harvest beans on thousands of cocoa farms located in Ivory Coast, a developing country on the African continent. This matter was brought to the Board on August 22, 2001, as Board Agenda Item K-10. The focus in Agenda Item K-10 was on actions taken by the House of Representatives and by a School Board ban on the sale of chocolate products that do not carry a "child friendly" chocolate label. Item K-10 was pulled from the Agenda without action being taken.

Since that time the Chocolate Manufacturers Association, in cooperation with the International Labor Organization and the World Cocoa Foundation, has taken significant steps to address the issue of forced child labor. These steps include:

- (1) a public statement of need for and time of an action plan;
- (2) the formation of multi-sectoral advisory groups, by October 1, 2001, responsible for on-going investigation of labor practices in West Africa, and by December 1, 2001, a broad consultative group to advise appropriate remedies for the elimination of the worst forms of child labor in the cocoa industry;
- (3) a signed joint statement on child labor to be witnessed at the International Labor Organization conference, by December 1, 2001;
- (4) a memorandum of cooperation, by May 1, 2002, to enforce the internationally-recognized and mutually-agreed upon standards to eliminate the worst forms of child labor in the cocoa industry;
- (5) the establishment of a joint foundation, by July 1, 2002, to oversee and sustain efforts to eliminate the worst forms of child labor in the cocoa industry; and
- (6) building toward credible standards, using baseline data gathered by December 31, 2001, and completed by July 1, 2005.

As a result of these actions it is requested that Miami-Dade County Public Schools support this international effort to eliminate forced child labor in the production of cocoa and cocoa-derived products.

**ACTION(S) PROPOSED BY  
DR. ROBERT B. INGRAM:**

That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, approve Resolution No. 01-45 of The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida:

1. to support the initiatives of the Chocolate Manufacturers Association in the elimination of forced child labor in the production of cocoa beans and cocoa-derived products; and
2. to advise major producers and distributors of cocoa-derived products of the Miami-Dade County Public Schools' position supporting the initiatives of the Chocolate Manufacturers Association in the elimination of forced child labor.

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**RESOLUTION NO. 01-45**  
**OF THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA,**  
**(1) TO SUPPORT THE INITIATIVES OF THE CHOCOLATE MANUFACTURERS**  
**ASSOCIATION IN THE ELIMINATION OF FORCED CHILD LABOR IN THE**  
**PRODUCTION OF COCOA BEANS AND COCOA-DERIVED PRODUCTS, AND**  
**(2) TO ADVISE MAJOR PRODUCERS AND DISTRIBUTORS OF COCOA-DERIVED**  
**PRODUCTS OF THE SCHOOL SYSTEM'S POSITION SUPPORTING THE**  
**INITIATIVES OF THE CHOCOLATE MANUFACTURERS ASSOCIATION IN THE**  
**ELIMINATION OF FORCED CHILD LABOR**

**WHEREAS**, the Chocolate Manufacturers Association has recognized the need to take immediate action for the elimination of forced child labor in the harvesting of cocoa beans; and

**WHEREAS**, the Chocolate Manufacturers Association has recognized that all major stakeholders, including consumers, have important responsibilities in influencing labor practices in the production of cocoa beans and cocoa-derived products; and

**WHEREAS**, Miami-Dade County Public Schools is supportive of the affirmative actions that have been taken by the Chocolate Manufacturers Association in the elimination of forced child labor, including, but not limited to, the creation of a broad consultative group to formulate appropriate remedies for the elimination of forced child labor in the cocoa industry; and

**WHEREAS**, Miami-Dade County Public Schools affirms the significance and importance of its assumption of consumer-stakeholder responsibility in the elimination of forced child labor practices in the harvesting and processing of cocoa beans and cocoa-derived products.

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

The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, approve Resolution No. 01-45 of The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida: (1) to support the initiatives of the Chocolate Manufacturers Association in the elimination of forced child labor in the production of cocoa beans and cocoa-derived products; and (2) to advise major producers and distributors of cocoa-derived products of the Miami-Dade County Public Schools' position supporting the initiatives of the Chocolate Manufacturers Association in the elimination of forced child labor.

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

Presented this twenty-fourth day of October, A.D. 2001

THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA

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CHAIR

ATTEST:

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Secretary