

January 8, 2002

Mr. Frank J. Cobo, Member

SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION NO. 02-01 OF THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA, HONORING JOSE MARTI, CUBA'S GREATEST EDUCATOR, HERO, POET, STATESMAN, AND MARTYRED REVOLUTIONARY, DURING A COMMUNITY CELEBRATION DEDICATED TO HIS MEMORY ON JOSE MARTI DAY, JANUARY 28, 2002

"Men are like the stars; some generate their own light, while others reflect the brilliance they receive." In writing those timeless words, Jose Marti, Cuba's greatest poet, statesman, and revolutionary hero, might well have been describing his life. January 28, 2002, will be the 149th anniversary of Marti's birth.

Today, Marti's spirit still lives in the hearts, minds and souls of the Cuban people. His numerous poems, articles, and books advocate personal freedom as well as liberty for his homeland. A staunch supporter of education, Marti was a teacher in Venezuela, Guatemala, and New York.

"Education is like a tree," Marti stated. "The seed is sown, and it opens out into many branches." His life will eternally remain an example for all men and women who seek to live by great ethical and moral values and standards. These are essential traits of character that we, as members of The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, must strive to instill in our students, being ever mindful of yet another Marti maxim: "It is necessary to make virtue fashionable."

**ACTION PROPOSED BY
MR. FRANK J. COBO:**

That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, approve Resolution No. 02-01 of The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, honoring Jose Marti, Cuba's greatest educator, hero, poet, statesman, and martyred revolutionary, during a community celebration dedicated to his memory on Jose Marti Day, January 28, 2002.

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RESOLUTION NO. 02-01
OF THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA, HONORING
JOSE MARTI, CUBA'S GREATEST EDUCATOR, HERO, POET, STATESMAN, AND
MARTYRED REVOLUTIONARY, DURING A COMMUNITY CELEBRATION
DEDICATED TO HIS MEMORY ON JOSE MARTI DAY, JANUARY 28, 2002

WHEREAS, January 28, 2002, marks the 149th birthday of Jose Marti, Cuba's greatest hero, poet, statesman, and democratic revolutionary; and

WHEREAS, students will be encouraged to participate in various events and celebrations dedicated to his memory; and

WHEREAS, Jose Marti spent his life campaigning for liberty for the people of Cuba and died in a battle fighting for Cuba's freedom from Spain; and

WHEREAS, the writings of Jose Marti occupy a place of honor in Spanish literature as the precursor of "modernismo" in Spanish letters; and

WHEREAS, Jose Marti chose to teach because he loved children, was vitally interested in education, and believed that to have a nation of free individuals, schools should teach children to think and have liberated minds, and

WHEREAS, Jose Marti was a man of genius, imagination, hope, and courage, who died for his convictions;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, approve Resolution No. 02-01 of The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, honoring Jose Marti, Cuba's greatest educator, hero, poet, statesman, and martyred revolutionary, during a community celebration dedicated to his memory on Jose Marti Day, January 28, 2002.

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

Presented this sixteenth day of January, A.D. 2002

THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA

CHAIR

ATTEST:

Secretary