

Education  
Mercedes Toural, Associate Superintendent

**SUBJECT:           REQUEST FOR APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION NO. 02-33 OF THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA, DESIGNATING THE WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 6-14, 2002, AS AMERICAN CHARACTER WEEK TO BE CELEBRATED IN MIAMI-DADE COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

**COMMITTEE:       ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION AND SCHOOL OPERATIONS**

This year, on the first anniversary of the September 11<sup>th</sup> attacks, the Leadership Council of the Character Counts! Coalition, a nonprofit, nonpartisan partnership of more than 500 organizations, invites all schools to celebrate September 6-14, 2002, as American Character Week. The Coalition encourages schools to make the anniversary of this terrible event an uplifting period of reflection and education. Schools are encouraged to participate in American Character Week in a manner that focuses students' attention on character and service. Appropriate activities include studying the lives of Americans of extraordinary character, including local individuals who have demonstrated the highest qualities of American character. In addition, teaching students about careers in public service and providing service-learning opportunities during the week are encouraged as a first step commitment to a life of regular community service. To facilitate American Character Week, the Character Counts! Coalition is making a variety of resources, including lists of school activities, essay prompts, and community service projects, available to all schools through their web site at <http://www.charactercounts.org/americancharacter.htm>.

Celebrating American Character Week helps support the State and District's character education requirements. In 1999, the Legislature amended Section 233.061, Florida Statutes, to require a character-development program in elementary schools. In 2002, the Legislature extended the requirement to all students, grades K-12, beginning in the 2004-2005 school year. Since 1995, the Pupil Progression Plan of Miami-Dade County Public Schools has required character education, as based on the District's nine core values, for all students, grades K-12. These values are: respect, responsibility, cooperation, citizenship, fairness, honesty, integrity, kindness, and pursuit of excellence.

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Therefore, it is fitting that the Board approve Resolution No. 02-33 of The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, as a continuing example of leadership and with the recognition that it will create a heightened awareness and appreciation of American Character Week.

**RECOMMENDED:**   That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, approve Resolution No. 02-33 designating September 6-14, 2002, as American Character Week to be celebrated in Miami-Dade County Public Schools.

**RESOLUTION NO. 02-33 OF THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA  
DESIGNATING THE WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 6-14, 2002, AS  
AMERICAN CHARACTER WEEK TO BE CELEBRATED IN  
MIAMI-DADE COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

**WHEREAS**, September 11, 2002, will be the first anniversary of unprecedented terrorist attacks resulting in a momentous loss of life and property; and

**WHEREAS**, the terrorists hoped to bring Americans to their knees, but instead, they brought Americans to their feet; and,

**WHEREAS**, the terrorists hoped to demoralize and intimidate Americans and undermine the American way of life, but instead caused Americans to become more resolute in their commitment to the cherished democratic and humanitarian principles that form the moral foundation of this nation; and

**WHEREAS**, this anniversary of tragedy is also an anniversary of a triumph of character – courage over cowardice, kindness over cruelty, service over selfishness, responsibility over indifference, love over hate, hope over fear, and freedom over repression; and

**WHEREAS**, we should demonstrate our respect for the victims of this terrible day by both commemorating the lives lost and honoring the countless acts of courage, compassion, loyalty, responsibility and other qualities that represent the best in human nature and the American character; and

**WHEREAS**, September 11<sup>th</sup> should not only be remembered as a day of great misfortune but as a reminder of the great fortune we possess in the character of our people and in living in a country where character counts; and

**WHEREAS**, it should be a day of reflection and education involving activities that strengthen appreciation of and dedication to the core ethical values that constitute the pillars of the American character such as respect, responsibility, cooperation, citizenship, fairness, honesty, integrity, kindness, and pursuit of excellence; and

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**WHEREAS**, it should also be a day of action devoted to community service, an element of good citizenship and an expression of good character;

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

The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, approve Resolution No. 02-33 of The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, designating the week of September 6-14, 2002, as American Character Week to be celebrated in Miami-Dade County Public Schools.

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

Presented this twenty-first day of August, A.D. 2002

THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA

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Chair

ATTEST:

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Secretary