

Mrs. Manty Sabatés Morse, Member

SUBJECT: REQUEST THAT THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA APPROVE RESOLUTION NO. 02-43 COMMENDING THE DR. BRUCE HEIKEN MEMORIAL FUND, INC. FOR THEIR WORK WITH MIAMI-DADE COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

The Dr. Bruce Heiken Memorial Fund, Inc., was established in 1992 as a memorial to an optometric physician whose *pro bono* care of indigent children became an important part of his professional practice. Following Dr. Heiken's death, a network of 60 optometric physicians from the Dade County Optometric Association made a commitment to continue and expand his work.

Through their efforts, the Heiken Fund mission was established and it consists of providing free comprehensive eye health/vision care and eyeglasses to financially disadvantaged K-12 students enrolled in Miami-Dade County Public Schools who have determined to have vision deficits.

As a result of their work, 22,896 students have been served to date by the Heiken Fund, with an average of 10,200 K-12 students identified with vision deficits annually, the need for the services they provide will continue. Although the Fund has been working primarily with elementary schools, they also serve middle and senior high schools.

The Heiken Fund now provides services through its In-Office and Instant Vision Programs. The In-Office provides services in the optometric physician's office. During the 2001-2002 school year, this program provided 1,821 exams and 1,485 pairs of eyeglasses. The Instant Vision Program offers services at Miami-Dade County Schools with a fully-equipped, customized mini-van. During the 2001-2002 school year, the Instant Vision program provided 115 school site visits, 1,741 exams, and 1,370 pairs of eyeglasses.

While Florida mandates vision screenings for grades K, 1, and 7, all new registrants, teacher referrals, and students exhibiting changes in behavior or learning disabilities, MDCPS also screens students in grades 4 and 10. The In-Office and Instant Vision Programs enable Heiken physicians to refer students for additional testing that they deem necessary to any of their affiliations.

As our student population grows, so will the need for eye health/vision care and eyeglasses. The Dr. Bruce Heiken Fund is able and willing to meet the challenge.

ACTION PROPOSED BY

MANTY SABATÉS MORSE: That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, adopt Resolution No. 02-43 Commending the work of the Dr. Bruce Heiken Fund with Miami-Dade County Public Schools.

**RESOLUTION NO. 02-43
OF THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA,
COMMENDING THE WORK OF THE DR. BRUCE HEIKEN FUND
WITH MIAMI DADE COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

WHEREAS, The Dr. Bruce Heiken Memorial Fund, Inc. was established in 1992 serving Miami Dade County Public Schools students through its volunteer network of 60 optometric physicians from the Dade County Optometric Association; and

WHEREAS, the mission of the Heiken Fund is to provide comprehensive eye health vision care and eyeglasses to financially disadvantaged K-12 students enrolled in our school system; and

WHEREAS, through their volunteer work, more than 22,896 students have been served to date, with an average of 10,200 K-12 students identified with vision deficits annually; and

WHEREAS, the Fund's In-Office and Instant Vision Programs provided this past school year, 1,821 exams and 1,485 pairs of eyeglasses, and 115 school-site visits ; and

WHEREAS, our school population continues to grow by leaps and bounds making it more likely that the Heiken Fund's services will be in greater demand.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida approve Resolution No. 02-43 of the School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, commending the Dr. Bruce Heiken Memorial Fund, Inc. for their work with Miami-Dade County Public Schools.

Presented this twenty-third day of October, A.D. 2002

THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA

Chair

ATTEST:

Secretary