

May 12, 2003

Mr. Frank J. Cobo, Member

SUBJECT: REQUEST APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION NO. 03-30 OF THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA, ENDORSING MAY 2003 AS SCHOOL VOLUNTEER MONTH, WITH THE THEME, "VOLUNTEERS ARE A WORK OF HEART"

COMMITTEE: FACILITIES MANAGEMENT

School volunteerism and civic responsibility have a long and rich tradition in Miami-Dade County Public Schools. The school system's school volunteer program, which began in 1972, is one of the oldest, and more tradition-rich initiatives in this county. Former Governor and current Senator, Bob Graham and his wife Adele, were one of the instrumental forces in taking what we learned locally, to a statewide initiative to establish school volunteer programs in all counties in the state.

The first official volunteer was a business person who worked for then, Eastern Airlines. Mr. Frank Thompson, who has since retired to Palm Beach, volunteered to teach math in schools in Miami Springs and Hialeah. Over the 31 years, organizers estimate over 21 million hours of service have been given to our students. Based on number values today, that is over \$ 315 million dollars worth of service to our school system.

School volunteers are needed more than ever today. With tight budgets, hurried schedules, and life in a large community, opportunities for more one-on-one role models are essential to the emotional and social growth of our students. Likewise, volunteer support in decreasing budgets might be the difference between success and failure. We must renew our spirit of volunteerism in the school system by continuing to encourage and welcome volunteers, while continuing to ensure the well being of our students.

ACTION PROPOSED BY

MR. FRANK J. COBO: That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida approve Resolution No. 03-30 of The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida endorsing May 2003 as School Volunteer Month to be celebrated in all of Miami-Dade County's public schools.

**RESOLUTION NO. 03-30 OF THE
SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA
ENDORING MAY 2003, AS
SCHOOL VOLUNTEER MONTH, WITH THE THEME
"VOLUNTEERS ARE A WORK OF HEART"
TO BE CELEBRATED IN ALL OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY'S PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

Whereas, Miami-Dade County Public Schools' School Volunteer Program has, for the past 31 years, served as an invaluable support for our teachers, students, and schools; and

Whereas, it is recognized that quality education depends greatly on addressing the individual needs of students through ongoing support; and

Whereas, data show that significant gains can be made in student achievement in both reading and math as a result of one-to-one tutoring; and

Whereas, data also show that having a significant adult in one's life is a factor that helps young adults succeed; and

Added

Whereas, school volunteers have given 2,439,600 hours of service in the 2002-2003 school year, at a value of more than \$36,594,000 dollars; and

Whereas, The School Volunteer Program of Miami-Dade County Public Schools has met this need for 31 years;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida approve Resolution No. 03-30 of the School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, endorsing May as School Volunteer Month, with the theme, "Volunteers are a Work of Heart," to be celebrated in all of Miami-Dade County's public schools.

Presented this
14th day of May, A.D. 2003

THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA

Chair

ATTEST:

Secretary