

Frank J. Cobo, Member

SUBJECT: REQUEST APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION NO. 03-46 OF THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA SUPPORTING THE RECOGNITION OF OCTOBER 2003 AS ITALIAN-AMERICAN HERITAGE AND CULTURE MONTH, AND AUTHORIZE ADMINISTRATIVE ACTIONS TO FOSTER RELATED ACTIVITIES

COMMITTEE: EDUCATION AND SCHOOL OPERATIONS

Approval is requested for Resolution No. 03-46 of The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, endorsing October 2003 as Italian-American Heritage and Culture Month in Miami-Dade County Public Schools. Since 1990, at the request and with the authorization of the Congress of the United States, by Senate Joint Resolution 349, George Bush, President of the United States of America, proclaimed the month of October as "Italian-American Heritage and Culture Month" and invited all Americans to observe this month with appropriate programs, ceremonies, and activities. This designation prompts our diverse community to become aware of, recognize and celebrate the many historic, cultural, social and economic contributions of Italian-Americans to the United States of America.

ACTION PROPOSED BY

MR. FRANK J. COBO: That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, approve Resolution No. 03-46 of The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida supporting recognition of October 2003 as Italian-American Heritage and Culture Month.

RESOLUTION NO. 03-46
THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA
PROCLAIMING OCTOBER 2003
AS ITALIAN-AMERICAN HERITAGE AND CULTURE MONTH

WHEREAS, Miami-Dade County Public Schools supports multicultural education and its ongoing efforts to educate the community about the merits of multicultural understanding; and

WHEREAS, promoting understanding and harmony among people is important to communities and their institutions; and

WHEREAS, Italians, like Amerigo Vespucci and Christopher Columbus, were some of the first explorers to discover the American continents and illustrate the geography; and

WHEREAS, Italians and Italian-Americans have made great contributions to America's society economically, culturally, and politically; and

WHEREAS, Italian-Americans have won prestigious prizes, such as the Medal of Honor for bravery, the Nobel Prize in Physics, the Pritzker Award for architecture, and the Fields Medal for mathematics; and

WHEREAS, Italians and Italian-Americans invented pianos, violins, calendars, radios, telescopes, compasses, microscopes, thermometers, eye glasses, steam engines, typewriters, and batteries; and

WHEREAS, Italian-Americans have toiled and labored while helping to build our Nation's infrastructure, including railroads, tunnels, highways, and subways; and

WHEREAS, great Italian-American political figures have enriched the political process and brought national pride to our country; and

WHEREAS, over 5.4 million Italians immigrated to the United States between 1820 and 1991, which today has resulted in over 26 million Americans of Italian descent in the United States, making them the fifth largest ethnic group; and

WHEREAS, Miami-Dade County Public Schools' effort to provide its students with programs and services which emphasize ethnic pride, cultural sensitivity, positive intergroup relations, and cross-cultural communications is ongoing; and

WHEREAS, Miami-Dade County Public Schools affirms the significance and importance of this merited recognition.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, approve Resolution No., 03-46 of The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, proclaiming October 2003 as Italian-American Heritage and Culture Month in Miami-Dade County Public Schools.

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

Presented this tenth day of September, A. D. 2003

THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA

CHAIR

ATTEST:

Secretary