

August 27, 2003

Paul R. Philip, Chief of Staff

**SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION NO. 03-43 OF THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA, ENDORSING OCTOBER 9, 2003, AS "LIGHTS ON AFTERSCHOOL!" AND "NATIONAL COMMUNITY EDUCATION DAY"**

The Miami-Dade Coalition for Community Education requests the School Board's endorsement to designate October 9, 2003, as "Lights On Afterschool!" and National Community Education Day. The purpose of this event is to educate the community about the importance of quality afterschool programs in fostering successful adults, and to underscore that learning is lifelong. It is also an opportunity to renew the school system's dedication to supporting Miami-Dade County Public Schools as Community Learning Centers.

The school has long been considered the "heart" of the community, each as valuable and diverse as the population it serves. The needs of each community will be addressed when each school dedicates its facilities to extend beyond the normal workday and to be available on weekends and holidays. This will impact the quality of life for all of the people in a community, from pre-schoolers to senior citizens. By endorsing this resolution, the Board will continue to exemplify the leadership in community education for which Miami-Dade County is noted, and make the concept of lifelong learning a reality not only for this county, but also for the rest of the United States.

**RECOMMENDED:** That the School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida approve Resolution No.03-43 of the School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, endorsing October 9, 2003 as "Lights On Afterschool!" and National Community Education Day to be celebrated in all of Miami-Dade County's public schools.

MRS:cn

**F-13**

RESOLUTION NO. 03-43 OF THE  
SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA  
ENDORING OCTOBER 9, 2003, AS  
"LIGHTS ON AFTERSCHOOL!"  
AND NATIONAL COMMUNITY EDUCATION DAY  
TO BE CELEBRATED  
IN ALL OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY'S PUBLIC SCHOOLS

**WHEREAS**, the citizens of Miami-Dade County stand firmly committed to quality community school and after school programs because they:

- Provide a safe, friendly learning environment for our children that boosts their academic achievement,
- Support working families by ensuring that their children are safe and productive after the regular school day ends;
- Build stronger communities by providing necessary services, promoting lifelong learning and skill development, partnering with business, agencies and civic organizations, and encouraging family involvement; and

**WHEREAS**, lifelong learning for all community members regardless of age, is a premise of community education; and

**WHEREAS**, the community school – open nights, weekends, and during the summer – is a focal point of community services, activities and involvement; and

**WHEREAS**, the role of quality afterschool programming is integral to the success of a child from youth through adulthood; and

**WHEREAS**, the citizens of Miami-Dade County are committed to improving the quality of life by meeting the educational, health, social, cultural and recreational needs of all members of our diverse community; and

**WHEREAS**, the dual celebration of "Light On Afterschool!" and National Community Education Day on October 9, promotes the critical importance of quality afterschool programs in the lives of children, their families and their communities; and

**WHEREAS**, many afterschool and community school programs across the country are facing funding shortfalls so severe that they are being forced to close their doors and turn off their lights;

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

The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida approve Resolution No. 03-43 of The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, endorsing October 9, 2003 as "Lights On Afterschool!" and National Community Education Day, and commits our community to engage in innovative after-school and community school programs that ensure that the lights stay on and doors stay open after school. We call on all our citizens to observe this dual celebration by supporting the creation or expansion of community and after-school programs, where all members of the community can gather to learn, have fun, become involved and receive services. A copy of this resolution is placed in the permanent records of this Board.

Presented this  
10<sup>th</sup> Day of September, A.D. 2003

THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA

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Chair

ATTEST:

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Secretary