

Office of School Board Members
Board Meeting of January 14, 2004

January 12, 2004

Frank J. Cobo, Member

**SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION NO. 04-04 OF THE
SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA,
HONORING JOSÉ MARTÍ, CUBA'S GREATEST EDUCATOR,
HERO, POET, STATESMAN, AND MARTYRED REVOLUTIONARY,
DURING A CELEBRATION OF HIS LIFE AT EMERSON
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**

"Men are like the stars; some generate their own light, while others reflect the brilliance they receive." In writing those timeless words, José Martí, Cuba's greatest poet, statesman and revolutionary hero, might well have been describing his life. January 28, 2004, will be the 151st anniversary of Martí's birth.

Today, the spirit of Martí, a teacher and staunch supporter of education, still lives in the hearts, minds and souls of the Cuban people. His numerous poems, articles and books advocate personal freedom as well as liberty for his homeland.

His words, "Education is like a tree. The seed is sown, and it opens out into many branches," remain true today. Ever mindful of them, we must strive to instill in our students his love of learning as well as the essential traits of character – ethics, morals and high standards – that he so clearly exemplified.

**ACTION PROPOSED BY
FRANK J. COBO:**

That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, approve Resolution No. 04-04 of The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, honoring José Martí, Cuba's greatest educator, hero, poet, statesman and martyred revolutionary, during a celebration of his life at Emerson Elementary School.

FJC:jlm

REPLACEMENT
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RESOLUTION NO. 04-04
OF THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA,
HONORING JOSÉ MARTÍ, CUBA'S GREATEST EDUCATOR, HERO, POET,
STATESMAN AND MARTYRED REVOLUTIONARY, DURING A CELEBRATION OF
HIS LIFE AT EMERSON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

WHEREAS, January 28, 2004, marks the 151st birthday of José Martí, Cuba's greatest hero, poet, statesman and democratic revolutionary; and

WHEREAS, students at Emerson Elementary School will be encouraged to participate in various learning experiences dedicated to his memory; and

WHEREAS, they will be reminded that José Martí spent his life campaigning for liberty for the people of Cuba and died in a battle fighting for Cuba's freedom from Spain; and

WHEREAS, the writings of José Martí occupy a place of honor in Spanish literature as the precursor of "modernismo" in Spanish letters; and

WHEREAS, José Martí chose to teach because he loved children, was vitally interested in education, and believed that to have a nation of free individuals, schools should teach children to think and have liberated minds; and

WHEREAS, José Martí was a man of genius, imagination, hope and courage, who died for his convictions;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, approve Resolution No. 04-04 of The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, honoring José Martí, Cuba's greatest educator, hero, poet, statesman and martyred revolutionary, during a celebration of his life on José Martí Day, January 28, 2004, at Emerson Elementary School.

Presented this fourteenth day of January, A.D. 2004

THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA

CHAIR

ATTEST:

Secretary