

Dr. Robert B. Ingram, Vice Chair

**SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION NO. 04-02 OF THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA, ENDORSING FEBRUARY 2004 AS NATIONAL BLACK HISTORY MONTH TO BE CELEBRATED IN ALL OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY'S PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

**COMMITTEE: EDUCATION AND SCHOOL OPERATIONS**

The first national observance of Black history was a week-long observance initiated in February 1926 by noted Black scholar and historian Dr. Carter G. Woodson. It was expanded to a month-long observance in 1976. Each year a theme for the observance is selected by The Association for the Study of African American Life and History, an organization founded by Dr. Woodson. This year's theme is *Brown v. Board of Education of Topeka, Kansas (50th Anniversary)*.

The purpose of Black History Month is to call attention to the many cultural, social, spiritual and economic contributions of African Americans to the United States. However, in Miami-Dade County Public Schools, Black history is not just a subject studied and discussed in February. It is a topic of substance that is woven into all subjects throughout the school year. Therefore, given the importance of instruction on African American history in our curriculum, and the importance of the impact of the landmark decision in the *Brown v. the Board of Education of Topeka, Kansas* case by the U.S. Supreme Court which desegregated public schools throughout the country, launched decades of policy changes intended to improve equitable access to education resources, and is commemorated in this year's theme, it is appropriate that this School Board endorse National Black History Month and encourage its celebration in all of Miami-Dade County's public schools.

**ACTION PROPOSED BY  
DR. ROBERT B. INGRAM:**

That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, approve Resolution No. 04-02 of the School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, endorsing February 2004 as National Black History Month to be celebrated in all of Miami-Dade County's Public Schools.

RBI:am

**RESOLUTION NO. 04-02  
OF THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA, ENDORSING  
FEBRUARY 2004 AS NATIONAL BLACK HISTORY MONTH TO BE CELEBRATED IN ALL  
OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY'S PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

**WHEREAS**, the official, national, week-long celebration of African American history initiated in February 1926 by noted Black scholar and historian Dr. Carter G. Woodson has expanded to a month-long observance during February; and

**WHEREAS**, this annual designation prompts our diverse community to become aware of, recognize, and celebrate the many cultural, social spiritual and economic contributions of African Americans to the United States as well as to promote understanding and harmony among all people; and

**WHEREAS**, the study of African American history is required by Miami-Dade County Public Schools' policy as well as state legislation and is woven into subjects throughout the school year; and

**WHEREAS**, the theme for the 2004 celebration of African American history month commemorates the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the landmark U. S. Supreme Court decision *Brown v. the Board of Education of Topeka, Kansas*, which desegregated public schools throughout the country and launched decades of policy changes intended to improve equitable access to education resources, and

**WHEREAS**, as a result of these policies, Miami-Dade County Public Schools provides its diverse student body with both programs and services that emphasize ethnic pride, cultural sensitivity, positive intergroup relations, and cross-cultural communications as well as the contributions of African Americans to the United States

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

The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, approves Resolution No. 04-02 of the School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, endorsing February as National Black History Month to be celebrated in all of Miami-Dade County's Public Schools.

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

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

THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MAIMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA

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CHAIR

Attest:

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Secretary