

Dr. Martin Karp, Member

SUBJECT: REQUEST APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION NO. 05-41 OF THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA, ENDORSING OCTOBER 19, 2005, AS "LIGHTS ON AFTERSCHOOL!" AND "NATIONAL COMMUNITY EDUCATION DAY" TO BE CELEBRATED IN ALL MIAMI-DADE COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

COMMITTEE: INSTRUCTIONAL EXCELLENCE & COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

The Miami-Dade Coalition for Community Education requests the School Board's endorsement to designate October 19, 2005, as "Lights on Afterschool!" and "National Community Education Day." The purpose of this initiative is to educate the community of the importance of quality after school programs in fostering successful students and to underscore that learning is lifelong. It is also an opportunity to renew Miami-Dade County Public Schools' dedication to supporting public schools as community learning centers.

Schools have long been considered the "heart" of the community, with each as valuable and diverse as the population served. The needs of each community are addressed when each school dedicates its facilities to extend beyond the normal workday and to be made available on weekends and holidays. Such examples of after school programs include the nationally recognized After-School All-Stars and Concerned African Women. This commitment will impact the quality of life for all, from pre-schoolers to senior citizens. By endorsing Resolution No. 05-41, 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 for this county.

ACTION PROPOSED BY

DR. MARTIN KARP: That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, approve Resolution No. 05-41 of The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, endorsing October 19, 2005, as "Lights on Afterschool!" and "National Community Education Day" to be celebrated in all Miami-Dade County Public Schools.

**RESOLUTION NO. 05-41
OF THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA,
ENDORING OCTOBER 19, 2005, AS “ LIGHTS ON AFTERSCHOOL!”
AND “NATIONAL COMMUNITY EDUCATION DAY”
TO BE CELEBRATED
IN ALL MIAMI-DADE COUNTY 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 and organizations, and encouraging family involvement;

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

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

WHEREAS, the role of quality after school programming is integral to the success of a child from youth through adulthood;

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;

WHEREAS, the dual celebration of “Lights On Afterschool!” and “National Community Education Day” on October 19, 2005, promotes the critical importance of quality after school programs in the lives of children, their families, and their communities; and

WHEREAS, many after school and community school programs across the country are facing funding shortfalls and 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. 05-41 of The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, endorsing October 19, 2005, as "Lights On Afterschool!" and "National Community Education Day," and encourages the Miami-Dade community to engage in innovative after school and community school programs that ensure that lights stay on and doors stay open. 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 nineteenth day of October, A.D. 2005

THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA

Chair

ATTEST:

Secretary