

Dr. Martin Karp, Member

SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION NO. 06-59 OF THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA, ENDORSING OCTOBER 12, 2006, AS "LIGHTS ON AFTERSCHOOL!" AND NOVEMBER 14, 2006, AS "NATIONAL COMMUNITY EDUCATION DAY"

COMMITTEE: INSTRUCTIONAL EXCELLENCE AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

The Miami-Dade Coalition for Community Education requests the School Board's endorsement to designate October 12, 2006, as "Lights on Afterschool!" and November 14, 2006, as "National Community Education Day". The purpose 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.

Supporting community education recognizes 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. The promotion of community education supports Florida Comprehensive Assessment Test success, No Child Left Behind, family literacy, and parental/family involvement. Community education engages family and community members to become partners in raising and maintaining high achievement as stated in district goals, and helps to develop our students so they are able to compete in a global economy. Community education is integral to the success of Zone related initiatives, and encourages private and philanthropic collaboration.

The school has long been considered the "heart" of the community, with each as valuable and diverse as the population it serves. The needs of each community are 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, 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.

ACTION PROPOSED BY

DR. MARTIN KARP: That the School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, approve Resolution 06-59 of the School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, endorsing October 12, 2006, as "Lights on Afterschool!" and November 14, 2006, as "National Community Education Day" to be celebrated in all of Miami-Dade County's public schools.

RESOLUTION NO. 06-59
OF THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA,
ENDORING OCTOBER 12, 2006, AS "LIGHTS ON AFTERSCHOOL!"
AND NOVEMBER 14, 2006, AS "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 afterschool 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 "Lights On Afterschool!" and "National Community Education Day" 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. 06-59 of The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, endorsing October 12, 2006, as "Lights On Afterschool!" and November 14, 2006, as "National Community Education Day", and it commits our community to engage in innovative afterschool and community school programs that ensure 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 afterschool 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
11th day of October, A.D. 2006

THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA

Chair

ATTEST:

Secretary