

Mr. Renier Diaz de la Portilla, Board Member

**SUBJECT:           REQUEST FOR APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION NO. 08-74  
OF THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY,  
FLORIDA, RECOGNIZING THE OUTSTANDING  
CONTRIBUTIONS OF BERNICE BRUCIE BALL TO MIAMI-  
DADE PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

**COMMITTEE:       INSTRUCTIONAL EXCELLENCE & COMMUNITY  
ENGAGEMENT**

**LINK TO DISTRICT  
STRATEGIC PLAN: INCREASE STUDENT EXPOSURE AND UNDERSTANDING OF  
GLOBAL ISSUES AND ECONOMY**

Bernice Brucie Ball was a lifelong educator, who served the children of Miami-Dade County Public Schools throughout her illustrious career. Ms. Ball began her career in 1979 at Edison Park Elementary, where she worked with ESE students for three decades. She later became a staffing specialist in North Region, continuing her work and advocacy with children of disabilities, assuring the proper educational needs of each child. She later hosted a television show with WLRN called BOLD- Broader Opportunities for the Learning Disabled, where she highlighted and advocated the many opportunities available to children with disabilities. Ms. Ball later became District Director of Special Education, where she advocated with parents and students, innovating a cooperative venture called Parent to Parent Miami, which created parent liaisons in Miami-Dade County public schools to inform the parents of children of disabilities the opportunities available, in particular, inclusive practices to include children with disabilities into general education classes with the proper support.

In 2003, Ms. Ball was promoted to Assistant Superintendent for Special Education and Psychological Services, where her experience as an advocate earned her the reputation as an educational authority on children with disabilities, and how to reach and teach them.

This advocacy and passion for children with disabilities earned her the recognition from Parent to Parent of Miami 2004 Educational Leadership Award at the Journey Dreams Benefit.

Bernice Brucie Ball's spirit of passion, optimism, patience, and joy for the children of Miami-Dade County, and all those involved in the effort to give all the children of Miami-Dade the educational opportunities to succeed in life was the reason that she succeeded in life.

**ACTION PROPOSED BY**

**MR. RENIER DIAZ DE LA PORTILLA:** That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, approves Resolution No. 08-74 of The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, Recognizes Bernice Brucie Ball for her outstanding contributions to Miami-Dade Public Schools