

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, a lifelong educator, passed away on June 26, 2008. She worked on behalf of children with disabilities who attended Miami-Dade County Public Schools throughout her illustrious career. Ms. Ball began her career in 1979, as a teacher of students with disabilities at Edison Park Elementary. Her work on behalf of children continued for almost three decades. As a staffing specialist in Regional Center II, she continued her commitment to teachers, parents and children with special needs by working to ensure the provision of appropriate supports and educational services. At that time she hosted a television show with WLRN called *BOLD- Broader Opportunities for the Learning Disabled*, where she highlighted and promoted the many opportunities available to children with disabilities. Ms. Ball's knowledge and passion for the education of students with disabilities led her to become District Director of Special Education, where she oversaw the educational programs for students with disabilities.

In 2003, Ms. Ball became Assistant Superintendent of Special Education and Psychological Services where she was able to continue her work on behalf of children with disabilities in a broader capacity. She was responsible for many successful initiatives that enhanced the educational success of these students. These initiatives include the implementation of inclusionary practices, the development of the School Support Teams, increasing graduation rates, school to work initiatives and working to ensure proper funding of programs for students with disabilities. Her tenure as an administrator with MDCPS earned her the reputation as an educational authority on children with disabilities.

Brucie, as she is known by friends and colleagues, worked tirelessly to create partnerships with parent agencies in the community. This led to the development of an innovative Cooperative Agreement with Parent to Parent of Miami and the creation of the Parent Liaison positions. These positions assist parents of children with disabilities to understand and navigate the school system. This advocacy and passion for children with disabilities and their families earned her the recognition from Parent to Parent of Miami as the recipient of the 2004 Educational Leadership Award at the Journey of 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 and has left a wonderful legacy in this district.

**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, recognizing Bernice Brucie Ball for her outstanding contributions to Miami-Dade Public Schools

**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**

**WHEREAS**, a lifelong educator, Bernice Brucie Ball worked on behalf of students with disabilities throughout her illustrious career at Miami-Dade County Public Schools (M-DCPS); and

**WHEREAS**, Ms. Ball's work on behalf of children spans nearly three decades, as she served in the roles of staffing specialist, District Director of Special Education, and Assistant Superintendent of Special Education and Psychological Services for M-DCPS; and

**WHEREAS**, through her work as an administrator, Ms. Ball was responsible for many successful initiatives that enhanced the educational success of students with disabilities; and

**WHEREAS**, Ms. Ball's commitment to creating partnerships with parent agencies in the community led to the development of an innovative cooperative agreement with Parent to Parent of Miami and the creation of Parent Liaison positions, which assists parents of students with disabilities to understand and navigate the school system; and

**WHEREAS**, Bernice Brucie Ball's passion, optimism, patience, and joy was the reason she succeeded in life and has left a wonderful legacy in Miami-Dade County Public Schools;

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

The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, approve Resolution No. 08-74 of The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, recognizing the outstanding contributions of Bernice Brucie Ball to Miami-Dade County Public Schools.

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

**Presented this fourth day of August, A.D. 2008**

THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA

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CHAIR

ATTEST:

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Secretary