

Dr. Wilbert "Tee" Holloway, Board Member

SUBJECT: REQUEST THAT THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA, APPROVE THE ENDORSEMENT OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS PARTICIPATION IN VIEWING THE 2009 PRESIDENTIAL INAUGURATION CEREMONY ON TUESDAY, JANUARY 20, 2009 AT NOON

COMMITTEE: SCHOOL SUPPORT ACCOUNTABILITY

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

For more than two hundred years, citizens of the United States have witnessed the inauguration ceremonies of the President and Vice President of the United States. From the first inauguration of George Washington, in New York City, in 1789, to today, as we prepare for the inauguration of Barack Obama on January 20, 2009 as the nation's 44th president, the inauguration ceremony represents both national renewal and continuity of leadership. The inauguration also allows Americans to reflect on our nation's history, our accomplishments, and our challenges. It is at once a connection to our past and a vision of hope for our future.

The inauguration of Barack Obama uniquely connects our nation's history with our nation's hope for the future. Barack Obama will be sworn in as president just days before the 200th anniversary of Abraham Lincoln's birth. The inauguration theme will reflect the timing: "A New Birth of Freedom," is a phrase from Lincoln's *Gettysburg Address*. At a time when our country faces major challenges at home and abroad, it is appropriate to revisit the words and deeds of President Lincoln, who strived to bring the nation together.

The inauguration of any president is a moment that should be witnessed and shared by all Americans, from the youngest child to the most senior of our citizens. On January 20, 2009, as thousands of Americans attend the ceremonies in Washington, D.C. and millions more watch the inauguration on television, the students of Miami-Dade County Public Schools should also be afforded the opportunity to witness the swearing in of our nation's next leader and first African American to be elected President of the United States. Furthermore, as the new president offers his vision for our nation's future in his inaugural address, students should listen and reflect on the course set by President Obama.

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Therefore, it is appropriate, that all schools be encouraged to televise the inauguration on January 20, 2009 and to plan appropriate instructional activities related to this most historic event. The instructional materials provided to schools by Curriculum and Instruction, Social Sciences, may be utilized to support instruction and to make the inauguration a meaningful learning experience for all students.

ACTION PROPOSED BY

DR. WILBERT "TEE" HOLLOWAY:

That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, approve the endorsement of Miami-Dade County Public Schools participation in viewing the 2009 Presidential Inauguration ceremony on Tuesday, January 20, 2009 at noon.

WH:jrd