

Dr. Lawrence S. Feldman, Board Member

**SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION NO. 09-133 OF
THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA,
RECOGNIZING KATIE EDWARDS FOR HER WORK ON
BEHALF OF THE DADE COUNTY FARM BUREAU**

**COMMITTEE: INSTRUCTIONAL EXCELLENCE AND COMMUNITY
ENGAGEMENT**

**LINK TO DISTRICT
STRATEGIC PLAN: ACTIVELY ENGAGE FAMILY AND COMMUNITY MEMBERS
TO BECOME OUR PARTNERS IN RAISING AND MAINTAINING
HIGH STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT**

An agriculturist from early childhood, Katie Edwards became an active member of the Florida Farm Bureau while she was still in high school, and is she known throughout Florida as a voice for Miami-Dade County's \$2.4 billion agricultural industry. Ms. Edwards is a graduate of Clemson University, where she earned a degree in Agricultural and Applied Economics. She held several leadership positions at the school, including president of Sigma Alpha, a national agricultural sorority, vice president of the Ag Econ Club, and president of the Community & Rural Development Club.

In 2003, Ms. Edwards was hired as Director of Communications for the Dade County Farm Bureau and was promoted to Executive Director in 2004, making her at age 22 the youngest executive director of a county Farm Bureau in the state of Florida. Ms. Edwards' focus at the Dade County Farm Bureau is protecting the economic viability of agriculture. She provides issue summaries and position papers to legislators and staff. She also reintroduced the Ag in the Classroom program to educate students about the importance of agriculture. Ms. Edwards is also involved in regulatory issues and has authored several op-eds and a monthly column for *The Miami Herald*. An advocate for agriculture and the 4,000-plus members of the Dade County Farm Bureau, Ms. Edwards testifies regularly before the State of Florida Legislature and works with policy makers on rules and regulations that impact agribusiness. In 2004 and 2007, the Dade County Farm Bureau was honored for its outstanding programs with the President's Award, presented by the Florida Farm Bureau Federation. Many of the programs that Ms. Edwards implemented are being used as models across the country.

Active in the community, Ms. Edwards is a member of the Ag Coalition of Florida and the Florida Farm Bureau Federation, and she is former vice chair of the Miami-Dade County Public Schools Agribusiness and Natural Resources Advisory Council. She is also the founder and past president of Florida Agri-Women, a network of women promoting Florida agriculture to legislators and consumers, and she was the first woman from Florida elected to the American Agri-Women's board of directors.

**ACTION PROPOSED BY
DR. LAWRENCE S. FELDMAN:**

That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, approve Resolution No. 09-133 of The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, recognizing Katie Edwards for her work on behalf of the Dade County Farm Bureau.

**RESOLUTION NO. 09-133
OF THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA,
RECOGNIZING KATIE EDWARDS FOR HER WORK ON BEHALF OF THE
DADE COUNTY FARM BUREAU**

WHEREAS, an agriculturist from early childhood, Katie Edwards became an active member of the Florida Farm Bureau while she was still in high school, and she is known throughout Florida as a voice for Miami-Dade County's \$2.4 billion agricultural industry; and

WHEREAS, in 2003, Ms. Edwards was hired as Director of Communications for the Dade County Farm Bureau and was promoted to Executive Director in 2004, making her at age 22 the youngest executive director of a county Farm Bureau in the state of Florida; and

WHEREAS, an advocate for agriculture and the 4,000-plus members of the Dade County Farm Bureau, Ms. Edwards' focus is protecting the economic viability of agriculture; and

WHEREAS, in 2004 and 2007, the Dade County Farm Bureau was honored for its outstanding programs with the President's Award, presented by the Florida Farm Bureau Federation. Many of the programs that Ms. Edwards implemented are being used as models across the country; and

WHEREAS, an active member of her community, Ms. Edwards is the founder and past president of Florida Agri-Women, a network of women promoting Florida agriculture to legislators and consumers;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, approve Resolution No. 09-133 of The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, recognizing Katie Edwards for her work on behalf of the Dade County Farm Bureau.

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

Presented this thirteenth day of January, A.D. 2010

THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA

CHAIR

ATTEST:

Secretary