

Ms. Perla Tabares Hantman, Vice Chair

SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION NO. 10-053 OF THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA, RECOGNIZING MARITIME & SCIENCE TECHNOLOGY (MAST) ACADEMY FOR BEING A FINALIST IN THE RACE TO THE TOP HIGH SCHOOL COMMENCEMENT CHALLENGE

COMMITTEE: INNOVATION, EFFICIENCY AND GOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS

LINK TO STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK: STUDENT, PARENT, AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Earlier this year, the White House and the Department of Education announced a Race to the Top High School Commencement Challenge inviting students in public schools across the country to compete to have the President of the United States speak at their commencement ceremony. The intent was to emphasize innovative high school programs with successful models that result in college admission and career readiness. Six national finalists were chosen from among thousands of applications and Miami-Dade County Public Schools' Maritime & Science Technology (MAST) Academy was selected as one of the finalists. MAST Academy was the only Florida school chosen as a finalist.

A video project allowed MAST Academy students to express their creativity and the students worked tirelessly on their project submission. Students enlisted the entire community, including the school's PTSA, alumni, and neighboring businesses and organizations to support the school's efforts and communicated through Facebook, Twitter, blogs, email, and websites. The project's Facebook page has more than 4,000 supporters.

Applications were judged based on the school's performance and dedication to providing students with an excellent education that will prepare them to graduate ready for college and career choices. MAST Academy is a nationally recognized, innovative school of choice with a marine theme. Students engage in hands-on experiences through diversified teaching strategies, classroom simulations, and internship/job placements. The school has a tradition of academic excellence, and has three times been ranked among Newsweek's Top 100 High Schools. Miami-Dade County Public Schools commends Principal Thomas C. Fisher II and the students, parents, teachers, and staff of MAST Academy for their efforts and their hard work, dedication, and commitment to excellence.

**ACTION PROPOSED BY VICE CHAIR
PERLA TABARES HANTMAN:**

That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, approve Resolution No. 10-053 of The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, recognizing Maritime & Science Technology (MAST) Academy for being a finalist in the Race to the Top High School Commencement Challenge.

**RESOLUTION NO. 10-053
OF THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA,
RECOGNIZING MARITIME & SCIENCE TECHNOLOGY (MAST) ACADEMY
FOR BEING A FINALIST IN THE RACE TO THE TOP HIGH
SCHOOL COMMENCEMENT CHALLENGE**

WHEREAS, earlier this year, the White House and the Department of Education announced a Race to the Top High School Commencement Challenge inviting students in public schools across the country to compete to have the President of the United States speak at their commencement ceremony; and

WHEREAS, the Race to the Top High School Commencement Challenge was announced last February to emphasize innovative high school programs with successful models that result in college admission and career readiness; and

WHEREAS, six national finalists were chosen from among thousands of applications and Miami-Dade County Public Schools' own Maritime & Science Technology (MAST) Academy was selected as one of the finalists; and

WHEREAS, MAST Academy was the only Florida school chosen as a finalist; and

WHEREAS, MAST Academy is a nationally recognized, innovative school of choice with a marine theme boasting a tradition of academic excellence; and

WHEREAS, a video project allowed MAST Academy students to express their creativity and the students worked tirelessly on their project submission. Students enlisted the entire community, including the school's PTSA, alumni, and neighboring businesses and organizations to support the school's efforts and communicated through Facebook, Twitter, blogs, email, and websites; and

WHEREAS, Miami-Dade County Public Schools commends Principal Thomas C. Fisher II and the students, parents, teachers, and staff of MAST Academy for their efforts and their hard work, dedication, and commitment to excellence;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, approve Resolution No. 10-053 of The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, recognizing Maritime & Science Technology (MAST) Academy for being a finalist in the Race to the Top High School Commencement Challenge.

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

Presented this twelfth day of May, A.D. 2010

THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA

CHAIR

ATTEST:

Secretary