

Dr. Dorothy Bendross-Mindingall, Board Member

**SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION 11-081 OF THE
SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA,
RECOGNIZING RUBEN VALDES FOR HIS OUTSTANDING
WORK IN THE COMMUNITY**

**COMMITTEE: INSTRUCTIONAL EXCELLENCE AND COMMUNITY
ENGAGEMENT**

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

On June 10, 1980, Ruben Valdes set course on a journey for liberty and opportunity as he left Mariel, Cuba for the sandy shores of Key West, Florida. The Mariel Boatlift witnessed 125,000 Cuban refugees flood the United States in search of freedom. Some perished while others clung for their lives to capsized boats during this dangerous voyage. A promising dental student in his homeland, Mr. Valdes changed his career focus to capitalize on his entrepreneurial nature.

What started out as a small store of three employees including him, his sister and his wife has transformed into Valsan of Miami, Inc., which is comprised of six mega stores and 300 employees. He was involved in the development and expansion of the Northwest 20th Street Merchants Corridor, a shopping epicenter of 600 stores. Mr. Valdes, a true philanthropist, has contributed nearly \$100,000 in scholarship money to deserving Miami Jackson Senior High School seniors. He regularly donates Christmas toys to churches and service groups, Thanksgiving food baskets to needy families and the elderly, computers and educational products to local elementary and middle schools, and home makeovers to senior citizens. Mr. Valdes has taken his message of empowerment through education to the Dominican Republic by founding the Ruben Valdes Sanchez Escuela Elemental. The school offers a quality education to 275 students in a poor, remote farming area.

Mr. Valdes is to be commended for his strength, perseverance and compassion. His spirit of generosity has positively impacted the lives of those in the Miami community and abroad. His life story is a testament to believing in your dreams. Mr. Valdes is an inspiration to all.

ACTION PROPOSED BY

DR. DOROTHY BENDROSS-MINDINGALL:

That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, approve Resolution No. 11-081 of The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, recognizing Ruben Valdes for his outstanding work in the community.

**Replacement
H-21**

**RESOLUTION NO. 11-081
OF THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA,
RECOGNIZING RUBEN VALDES FOR HIS OUTSTANDING WORK IN THE COMMUNITY**

WHEREAS, on June 10, 1980, Ruben Valdes set course on a journey for liberty and opportunity as he left Mariel, Cuba for the sandy shores of Key West, Florida. A promising dental student in his homeland, Mr. Valdes changed his career focus to capitalize on his entrepreneurial nature; and

WHEREAS, what started out as a small store of three employees including him, his sister and his wife has transformed into Valsan of Miami, Inc., which is comprised of six mega stores and 300 employees. He was involved in the development and expansion of the Northwest 20th Street Merchants Corridor, a shopping epicenter of 600 stores; and

WHEREAS, he regularly donates Christmas toys to churches and service groups, Thanksgiving food baskets to needy families and the elderly, computers and educational products to local elementary and middle schools, and home makeovers to senior citizens; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Valdes has taken his message of empowerment through education to the Dominican Republic by founding the Ruben Valdes Sanchez Escuela Elemental. The school offers a quality education to 275 students in a poor, remote farming area; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Valdes is to be commended for his strength, perseverance and compassion. His spirit of generosity has positively impacted the lives of those in the Miami community and abroad; and

WHEREAS, his life story is a testament to believing in your dreams. Mr. Valdes is an inspiration to all;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, approve Resolution No. 11-081 of The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, recognizing Ruben Valdes for his outstanding work in the community.

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

Presented this fifteenth day of June, A.D. 2011

THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA

CHAIR

ATTEST:

Secretary