

Dr. Lawrence S. Feldman, Vice Chair

**SUBJECT:** REQUEST APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION NO. 11-082 OF THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA, RECOGNIZING PALMETTO ELEMENTARY SCHOOL'S ODYSSEY OF THE MIND STUDENTS FOR REPRESENTING FLORIDA IN THE WORLD FINALS

} Added

**COMMITTEE:** SCHOOL SUPPORT ACCOUNTABILITY

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

Odyssey Of The Mind is an international educational program that provides creative problem-solving opportunities for students from Kindergarten through college. Team members apply their creativity to solve problems that range from building mechanical devices to presenting their own interpretation of literary classics. They then bring their solutions to compete on the local, state, and world level. Thousands of teams from throughout the United States and from 25 other countries participate in the program.

For the team of seven students from Palmetto Elementary in Pinecrest, their ability to think outside of the box earned them the right to call themselves champions from the first regional event, to representing the state of Florida, to a spot in last month's Odyssey of the Mind World Championship at the University of Maryland. These seven students earned fifth place in the World Finals.

} Added

Each year, the Odyssey of the Mind organization releases five long-term problems. Teams may choose one to work on and then present their solutions at the regional, state and world levels. During competition, teams also are given a problem to solve on the spot. Joining 800 other teams from across the nation and around the world were seven fourth- and fifth-grade students from Palmetto Elementary: Michael Fein, Louis Moon, Charlie Edbrooke, Elizabeth Edbrooke, Kira Quintana, Anna Marchus and Jack Cruz-Alvarez presented their solutions to the creative-thinking problems they began deciphering since the fall.

Some of the problems are more technical, such as building and operating a vehicle or a robot, while others are artistic and performance based, such as writing an additional chapter to Moby Dick, or bringing a painting to life. Art, literature and architecture are emphasized.

Palmetto's coach is Steven Fein, a hematologist at Baptist Hospital. He has been involved with Odyssey of the Mind as a participant, a judge and a coach since 1986. He began coaching the fifth-graders since they were in first grade and has taught them to combine the technical and the artistic. They worked on the "Extreme Mouse Mobile" problem this year, which required them to build and run vehicles powered by mousetraps. The team also had to create a themed skit during which the mouse mobiles perform stunts.

Miami-Dade County Public Schools commends the student champions, their coaches and parents for representing the school district at this world competition.

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

That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, approve Resolution No. 11-082 of the School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, recognizing Palmetto Elementary School's Odyssey of the Mind Students for representing Florida in the World Finals. } Added

**RESOLUTION NO. 11-082  
OF THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA,  
RECOGNIZING PALMETTO ELEMENTARY SCHOOL'S ODYSSEY OF THE MIND  
STUDENTS FOR REPRESENTING FLORIDA IN THE WORLD FINALS**

} Added

**WHEREAS**, Odyssey Of The Mind is an international educational program that provides creative problem-solving opportunities for students from Kindergarten through college. Team members apply their creativity to solve problems that range from building mechanical devices to presenting their own interpretation of literary classics; and

**WHEREAS**, the team members then bring their solutions to compete on the local, state, and world levels with thousands of teams from throughout the United States and 25 other countries; and

**WHEREAS**, a team of seven students from Palmetto Elementary in Pinecrest, used their ability to think outside of the box and earned the right to call themselves champions and a spot in last month's Odyssey of the Mind World Championship at the University of Maryland; and

**WHEREAS**, each year, the Odyssey of the Mind organization releases five long-term problems of which teams may choose one to work on and then present their solutions at the regional, state and world levels. Some problems are more technical, such as building and operating a vehicle or a robot, while others are artistic and performance based, such as writing an additional chapter to Moby Dick, or bringing a painting to life; and

**WHEREAS**, joining 800 other teams from across the nation and around the world were seven fourth- and fifth-grade students from Palmetto Elementary: Michael Fein, Louis Moon, Charlie Edbrooke, Elizabeth Edbrooke, Kira Quintana, Anna Marchus, Jack Cruz-Alvarez and their coach Steven Fein; and

**WHEREAS**, this year the students, many of whom have been training together since first grade, worked on the "Extreme Mouse Mobile" problem, which required them to build and run vehicles powered by mousetraps and also to create a themed skit during which the mouse mobiles perform stunts;

**WHEREAS**, Miami-Dade County Public Schools commends these students, their coach and parents for representing the District and the State of Florida at the world competition;

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

The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, approve Resolution No. 11-082 of The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, recognizing Palmetto Elementary School's Odyssey of the Mind Students for representing Florida in the World Finals.

} Added

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

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CHAIR

ATTEST:

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Secretary