

Dr. Dorothy Bendross-Mindingall, Board Member

**SUBJECT:** REQUEST FOR APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION 12-020 OF THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA, RECOGNIZING CHEF MICHELLE BERNSTEIN FOR HER COMMITMENT TO EDUCATION AND COMMUNITY SERVICE

**COMMITTEE:** INSTRUCTIONAL EXCELLENCE AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

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

A native Miamian of Jewish and Latin descent, Chef Michelle Bernstein graduated with honors from Johnson & Wales University and splashed upon the national culinary scene in the late 1990s as the Executive Chef of Tantra on Miami Beach. Her sophisticated and deliciously innovative cuisine and vibrant, made-for-television personality launched her career as co-host of television shows on the Food Network and PBS. Chef Bernstein is also an author, restaurant owner and winner of the coveted James Beard Award as Best Chef in the South 2008.

Chef Bernstein garnered national acclaim and recognition when she helmed the restaurant "Azul" at the Mandarin Oriental. In 2005, she resigned to open her first restaurant, "Michy's." with husband and business partner, David Martinez. Three years later, they opened "Sra. Martinez" a chic, down-to-earth tapas restaurant in Miami's Design District. Following that, they opened two eateries, "Michelle Bernstein" and "MB Terrace," a year later in Palm Beach, Florida.

Most recently, Chef Bernstein launched the Miami chapter of *Common Threads*, an after-school program that utilizes culinary arts to teach underprivileged students age 8-11, social skills, and healthy eating habits. The program that was started in Chicago, Illinois by Chef Art Smith now has six participating schools in Miami-Dade County. Currently, she is working with Miami-Dade County Public Schools on a chef partnership dedicated to improving the quality of cafeteria food in schools throughout the county with the help of several South Florida chefs.

Additionally, Chef Bernstein has partnered with First Lady Michelle Obama's *Let's Move Salad Bars to Schools!*, a major White House initiative targeting childhood obesity and the availability of fresh fruits and vegetables in school meals via school gardens.

Chef Michelle Bernstein is to be commended for her passion, creativity and commitment to education and to the students of Miami-Dade County.

**ACTION PROPOSED BY  
DR. DOROTHY BENDROSS MINDINGALL:**

That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, approve Resolution No. 12-020 of The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, recognizing Chef Michelle Bernstein for her commitment to education and community service.

**Replacement  
H-19**

**RESOLUTION NO. 12-020  
OF THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA,  
RECOGNIZING CHEF MICHELLE BERNSTEIN FOR HER COMMITMENT TO EDUCATION  
AND COMMUNITY SERVICE**

**WHEREAS**, Chef Michelle Bernstein is a native Miamian of Jewish and Latin descent, who graduated with honors from Johnson & Wales University. She splashed upon the national culinary scene in the late 1990s as the Executive Chef of Tantra on Miami Beach; and

**WHEREAS**, Chef Bernstein's sophisticated and deliciously innovative cuisine and vibrant, made-for-television personality launched her career as co-host of television shows on the Food Network and PBS. Chef Bernstein also as an author, restaurant owner and winner of the coveted James Beard Award as Best Chef in the South 2008; and

**WHEREAS**, Chef Bernstein garnered national acclaim and recognition when she helmed the restaurant "Azul" at the Mandarin Oriental. In 2005, she resigned to open her first restaurant, "Michy's." with husband and business partner, David Martinez. Three years later, they opened "Sra. Martinez" a chic, down-to-earth tapas restaurant in Miami's Design District; and

**WHEREAS**, Chef Bernstein launched the Miami chapter of *Common Threads*, an after-school program that utilizes culinary arts to teach underprivileged students age 8-11, social skills, and healthy eating habits. The program that was started in Chicago, Illinois by Chef Art Smith now has six participating schools in Miami-Dade County; and

**WHEREAS**, currently, Chef Bernstein is working with Miami-Dade County Public Schools on a chef partnership dedicated to improving the quality of cafeteria food in schools throughout the county; and

**WHEREAS**, Chef Bernstein also has partnered with First Lady Michelle Obama's *Let's Move Salad Bars to Schools!*, a major White House initiative targeting childhood obesity and the availability of fresh fruits and vegetables in school meals via school gardens; and

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

The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, approve Resolution No. 12-020 of The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, recognizing Chef Michelle Bernstein for her passion, creativity and commitment to education and the students of Miami-Dade County Public Schools.

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

**Presented this eighteenth day of January, A.D. 2012**

THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA

\_\_\_\_\_  
CHAIR

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Secretary