

Dr. Lawrence S. Feldman, Vice Chair

**SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION NO. 12-138
OF THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY,
FLORIDA, HONORING THE J.A.M. FOUNDATION, INC.**

**COMMITTEE: INSTRUCTIONAL EXCELLENCE AND COMMUNITY
ENGAGEMENT**

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

The J.A.M. Foundation, Inc. was established in 2010 as Justin Menendez's loving tribute to his brother Jason Anthony Menendez who committed suicide. The goal of the J.A.M. Foundation is to encourage youths, their parents and educators to Stand Up & Speak about suicide. Stand Up & Speak started as the organization's motto but quickly became a campaign project. The Stand Up & Speak campaign motivates youths, their parents and educators to share their personal experiences or any situations they may be witnessing in order to communicate freely and openly regarding the taboo subject of suicide. The belief is that this sharing and communicating will lead more people to seek help and treatment, which will eventually save lives.

The J.A.M. Foundation is involved in the community through its annual participation in the Out of the Darkness Walk, which is sponsored by the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention (AFSP). J.A.M. also donates funds to the AFSP in order to fund research. The organization hosts an annual Back to School Skate JAM as a fun way to engage people and raise awareness for suicide prevention. Since September is National Suicide Awareness Month, J.A.M. canvases the community setting up information tables at sites as well as distributing flyers, brochures and ribbons about suicide prevention. Last year, Mr. Menendez spread his message by attending the Council Committee Meeting at the State Capital Building in Tallahassee, where he shared his story and set up a display with collateral materials.

Justin Menendez and The J.A.M. Foundation, Inc. are to be commended for promoting and bringing awareness to suicide prevention. The message to Stand Up & Speak will save the lives of countless youths in our community.

ACTION PROPOSED BY

DR. LAWRENCE S. FELDMAN:

That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, approve Resolution No. 12-138 of The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, honoring The J.A.M. Foundation, Inc.

**RESOLUTION NO. 12-138
OF THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA,
HONORING THE J.A.M. FOUNDATION, INC.**

WHEREAS, The J.A.M. Foundation, Inc. was established in 2010 as Justin Menendez's loving tribute to his brother Jason Anthony Menendez who committed suicide; and

WHEREAS, the goal of the J.A.M. Foundation is to encourage youths, their parents and educators to Stand Up & Speak about suicide. Stand Up & Speak started as the organization's motto but quickly became a campaign project; and

WHEREAS, the Stand Up & Speak campaign motivates youths, their parents and educators to share their personal experiences or any situations they may be witnessing in order to communicate freely and openly regarding the taboo subject of suicide. The belief is that this sharing and communicating will lead more people to seek help and treatment, which will eventually save lives; and

WHEREAS, The J.A.M. Foundation is involved in the community through its annual participation in the Out of the Darkness Walk, which is sponsored by the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention (AFSP). J.A.M. also donates funds to the AFSP in order to fund research. The organization hosts an annual Back to School Skate JAM as a fun way to engage people and raise awareness for suicide prevention; and

WHEREAS, since September is National Suicide Awareness Month, J.A.M. canvases the community setting up information tables at sites as well as distributing flyers, brochures and ribbons about suicide prevention. Last year, Mr. Menendez spread his message by attending the Council Committee Meeting at the State Capital Building in Tallahassee, where he shared his story and set up a display with collateral materials; and

WHEREAS, Justin Menendez and The J.A.M. Foundation, Inc. are to be commended for promoting and bringing awareness to suicide prevention. The message to Stand Up & Speak will save the lives of countless youths in our community;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, approve Resolution No. 12-138 of The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, honoring The J.A.M. Foundation, Inc.

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

Presented this fifth day of September A.D. 2012

THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA

CHAIR

ATTEST:

Secretary