

Dr. Dorothy Bendross-Mindingall, Board Member

**SUBJECT:                   REQUEST FOR APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION NO. 13-050 OF THE  
SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA,  
RECOGNIZING ELIJAH WELLS FOR HIS ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN  
FILM**

**COMMITTEE:               INSTRUCTIONAL EXCELLENCE AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT**

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

Elijah Wells' love for entertaining started at a very young age playing drums in his church. Soon after, he was tap dancing for Florene Nichols' Inner City Children's Touring Dance Company. Elijah then took interest in photography as he photographed his mother participating in community events throughout Miami. At the age of ten Elijah received his first professional grade camera from his father and almost immediately he was booked to photograph parties and funerals. It was then that he realized his natural place in life was behind the camera.

Elijah was later allowed to take part in the American Black Film Festival's Cine-Lab Workshop even though he was too young to apply. It took only a few looks at Elijah's portfolio to convince Cine-Lab Director, Reggie Scott to allow the exception. Cine-Lab is a summer educational outreach program for youth aged 13-18, that explores the art and business of filmmaking through extensive hands on lessons that develop the participants' literacy and social skills.

That summer Elijah wrote and directed two short films that went viral, which began a year of productive creativity that lead Elijah to write, act, and direct not only his own work but the work of other professional filmmakers. Elijah served as "best boy" which acts as the foreman for his department, for Director Steven Drayton on the film "White Boys." He also served on the cinematography team on the movie "Playin for Love" which was directed by famous filmmaker Robert Townsend. Elijah has also been honored with best actor and best director awards from the Miami World Cinema Center, a 2013 Legacy: Black History Award, and was a short film finalist for the 2012 American Black Film Festival for his film "The Gift."

Miami-Dade County Public Schools commends Elijah for his hard work and creativity in film.

**ACTION PROPOSED BY**

**DR. DOROTHY BENDROSS-MINDINGALL:** That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, approve Resolution No. 13-050, of The School Board of Miami-Dade-County, Florida, recognizing Elijah Wells for his accomplishments in film.

**Replacement  
H-26**

**RESOLUTION NO. 13-050  
OF THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA,  
RECOGNIZING ELIJAH WELLS FOR HIS ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN FILM**

**WHEREAS**, Elijah Wells' love for entertaining started at a very young age playing drums in his church. Soon after, he was tap dancing for Florene Nichols' Inner City Children's Touring Dance Company. Elijah then took interest in photography as he photographed his mother participating in community events throughout Miami; and

**WHEREAS**, At the age of ten Elijah received his first professional grade camera from his father and almost immediately he was booked to photograph parties and funerals; and

**WHEREAS**, Mr. Wells was later allowed to take part in the American Black Film Festival's Cine-Lab Workshop even though he was too young to apply. Cine-Lab is a summer educational outreach program for youth aged 13-18, that explores the art and business of filmmaking through extensive hands on lessons that develop the participants' literacy and social skills; and

**WHEREAS**, Mr. Wells served as "best boy" which acts as the foreman for his department, for Director Steven Drayton on the film "White Boys." He also served on the cinematography team on the movie "Playin for Love" which was directed by famous filmmaker Robert Townsend; and

**WHEREAS**, Elijah has also been honored with best actor and best director awards from the Miami World Cinema Center, a 2013 Legacy: Black History Award, and was a short film finalist for the 2012 American Black Film Festival for his film "The Gift"; and

**WHEREAS**, Miami-Dade County Public Schools commends Elijah for his hard work and creativity in film;

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

The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, approve Resolution No. 13-050 of The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, recognizing Elijah Wells for his hard work and creativity in film;

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

**Presented this thirteenth day of March, A.D. 2013**

THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA

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CHAIR

ATTEST:

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Secretary