

Dr. Martin Karp, Vice Chair

SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION NO. 13-048 OF THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA, RECOGNIZING THE TOWN OF SURFSIDE AND THE NON-VIOLENCE PROJECT FOR TAKING A STAND AGAINST BULLYING

COMMITTEE: INSTRUCTIONAL EXCELLENCE AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

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

On February 12, 2013, the Town of Surfside unanimously voted to adopt an anti-bullying policy that establishes an awareness campaign and reporting system for bullying, harassment and intimidation of children in community facilities. The Town's Parks and Recreation Department developed the awareness campaign, which consists of promotion and modeling of respectful language, fostering an understanding of and respect for diversity, and an annual training program for staff.

Town of Surfside Commissioner Michelle Kligman spearheaded the policy, in collaboration with a panel of experts: Dr. Hortensia Nuñez, Dr. Waldo Castro and Julio Avel of the Non-Violence Project. This occurred shortly after Surfside's Parks and Recreation Department presented a screening of the internationally acclaimed documentary, "Bully."

According to the National Education Association, it is estimated that 160,000 children miss school every day due to fear of attack or intimidation by other students. One in seven students in grades K-12 is either a bully or a victim of bullying. Fifty-six percent of students have personally witnessed some type of bullying at school. Also, 15 percent of all school absenteeism is directly related to fears of being bullied at school. Bullying can take many forms but it usually includes physical, verbal, indirect or cyber bullying.

The Town of Surfside is coordinating and encouraging its neighboring communities of Bay Harbor Islands, Bal Harbour, Miami Beach, North Bay Village, Sunny Isles Beach, Aventura, North Miami Beach and North Miami, as well as the principals from Ruth K. Broad Bay Harbor K-8 Center and other surrounding schools, to join in the efforts.

The School Board commends the Town of Surfside and the Non-Violence Project for taking a stand against bullying throughout Miami-Dade County.

**ACTION PROPOSED BY
DR. MARTIN KARP:**

That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, approve Resolution No. 13-048 of The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, recognizing the Town of Surfside and the Non-Violence Project for taking a stand against bullying.

**RESOLUTION NO. 13-048
OF THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA,
RECOGNIZING THE TOWN OF SURFSIDE AND THE NON-VIOLENCE PROJECT
FOR TAKING A STAND AGAINST BULLYING**

WHEREAS, On February 12, 2013, the Town of Surfside unanimously voted to adopt an anti-bullying policy that establishes an awareness campaign and reporting system for bullying, harassment and intimidation of children in community facilities; and

WHEREAS, the Town's Parks and Recreation Department developed the awareness campaign, which consists of promotion and modeling of respectful language, fostering an understanding of and respect for diversity, and an annual training program for staff; and

WHEREAS, Town of Surfside Commissioner Michelle Kligman spearheaded the policy, in collaboration with a panel of experts: Dr. Hortensia Nuñez, Dr. Waldo Castro and Julio Avel of the Non-Violence Project This occurred shortly after Surfside's Parks and Recreation Department presented a screening of the internationally acclaimed documentary, "Bully"; and

WHEREAS, according to the National Education Association, it is estimated that 160,000 children miss school every day due to fear of attack or intimidation by other students. One in seven students in Grades K-12 is either a bully or a victim of bullying. Fifty-six percent of students have personally witnessed some type of bullying at school. Also, 15 percent of all school absenteeism is directly related to fears of being bullied at school; and

WHEREAS the Town of Surfside is coordinating and encouraging its neighboring communities of Bay Harbor Islands, Bal Harbour, Miami Beach, North Bay Village, Sunny Isles Beach, Aventura, North Miami Beach and North Miami, as well as the principals from Ruth K. Broad Bay Harbor K-8 Center and other surrounding schools, to join in the efforts; and

WHEREAS, the School Board commends the Town of Surfside and the Non-Violence Project for taking a stand against bullying throughout Miami-Dade County;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, approve Resolution No. 13-048 of The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, recognizing the Town of Surfside and the Non-Violence Project for taking a stand against bullying.

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

CHAIR

ATTEST:

Secretary