

Dr. Lawrence S. Feldman, Board Member

**SUBJECT: REQUEST APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION NO. 13-122 OF THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA, RECOGNIZING ODYSSEY OF THE MIND WORLD FINALISTS**

**COMMITTEE: INSTRUCTIONAL EXCELLENCE AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT**

**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 international levels. Thousands of teams from throughout the United States and from 25 other countries participate in the program.

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 international levels. During competition, teams also are given a problem to solve on the spot. 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.

Three teams – from Howard Drive Elementary, Palmetto Middle School and David Lawrence Jr. K-8 Center – used their ability to think outside of the box to earn the right to call themselves champions at this spring's Odyssey of the Mind World Finals at Michigan State University.

Joining 825 other teams from around the nation and the world were the rookie team from Howard Drive Elementary School: Andres Laventman, Matthew Lamas, Sofia Vinueza, Savannah Cain, Alex Eum, Leah Melendez and Kennedy Todd, who worked on Problem 3 ARTchitecture: The Musical Division I. After much practice and refining of their performance, the team finished ahead of teams from Singapore, China, Poland and Hong Kong to finish in fourth place.

Palmetto Middle School's Odyssey of the Mind team consists of Michael Fein, Louis Moon, Charlie Edbrooke, Elizabeth Edbrooke, Jack CruzAlvarez, Ana Marchus and P.J. Esco, who have been competing together since first grade. After placing third at the state level, the team won the *Renatra Fusca* creativity award and earned a spot at the World Finals. During their performance in the Pet Project category, they constructed a "Trojan Horse" computer virus on stage by delivering the parts of the animal in creatively engineered vehicles. They scored in the top 20 in the middle school division.

After placing second at the state level, the David Lawrence K-8 Center team advanced to the World Finals and tied for 24<sup>th</sup> place in the Problem 5 category, It's How You Look At It, with an 8 minute presentation centered on the issues of socially acceptable and unacceptable behavior. Team members are Rachel Lantsman, Christina Schweitzer, Alicia Santucci, Raisa Stein, Danielle Link, Sarah Lantsman, Angelyn Escalona, and Daisy Rosas-Guyon. Miami-Dade County Public Schools commends the student champions, their coaches and parents for representing the school district at this world competition.

REVISED

**ACTION PROPOSED BY**

**DR. LAWRENCE S. FELDMAN:** That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, approve Resolution No. 13-122 of The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, recognizing Odyssey of the Mind world finalists.

**RESOLUTION NO. 13-122  
OF THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA,  
RECOGNIZING ODYSSEY OF THE MIND WORLD FINALISTS**

**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 international levels with thousands of teams from throughout the United States and 25 other countries; and

**WHEREAS**, Three teams – from Howard Drive Elementary, Palmetto Middle School and David Lawrence Jr. K-8 Center – used their ability to think outside of the box to earn the right to call themselves champions at this spring's Odyssey of the Mind World Finals at Michigan State University; 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 international 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 825 other teams from around the nation and the world were the rookie team from Howard Drive Elementary School: Andres Laventman, Matthew Lamas, Sofia Vinueza, Savannah Cain, Alex Eum, Leah Melendez and Kennedy Todd, who worked on Problem 3 ARTchitecture: The Musical Division I. After much practiced and refining of their performance, the team finished in fourth place; and

**WHEREAS**, Palmetto Middle School's Odyssey of the Mind team consists of Michael Fein, Louis Moon, Charlie Edbrooke, Elizabeth Edbrooke, Jack Cruz Alvarez, Ana Marchus and P.J. Esco, who have been competing together since first grade. They constructed a "Trojan Horse" computer virus on stage by delivering the parts of the animal in creatively engineered vehicles. They scored in the top 20 in the middle school division; and

**WHEREAS**, After placing second at the state level, the David Lawrence K-8 Center team advanced to the World Finals and tied for 24<sup>th</sup> place in the Problem 5 category, It's How You Look At It, with an 8 minute presentation centered on the issues of socially acceptable and unacceptable behavior. Team members include Rachel Lantsman, Christina Schweitzer, Alicia Santucci, Raisa Stein, Danielle Link, Sarah Lantsman, Angelyn Escalona, and Daisy Rosas-Guyon; and

**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. 13-122 of The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, recognizing Odyssey of the Mind world finalists.

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

**Presented this nineteenth day of November, A.D. 2013**

THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA

\_\_\_\_\_  
CHAIR

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Secretary

REVISED