

Dr. Marta Pérez, Board Member

**SUBJECT: REQUEST APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION NO. 14-086 OF
THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA,
HONORING MS. BERNADETTE PARDO**

**COMMITTEE: INSTRUCTIONAL EXCELLENCE AND COMMUNITY
ENGAGEMENT**

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

Our community is extremely fortunate to have a person who has distinguished herself in the field of journalism. She is an inspiration to countless young women who aspire to work in this highly competitive but rewarding field.

Bernadette Pardo, a native of Cuba, has been a working journalist in South Florida for close to 40 years. She began her career in the mid-seventies with Channel 23, where as a reporter she had the opportunity to cover and conduct one-on-one interviews with different international, national, state, and local community leaders, visiting far-away places around the world.

From Channel 23, Pardo moved to WPLG Channel 10 occupying the position of Editorial Director, where she helped draft and disseminate the station's opinion on a diverse set of issues affecting the local community. From there, in the early eighties, she moved to Tallahassee, where Pardo served as speechwriter to Florida Governor Bob Graham, obtaining valuable experience in state government and the workings of the state legislative process as well as state budgetary issues affecting public education.

Returning to South Florida in the mid-eighties, Pardo briefly worked at Channel 4 before moving back to Channel 23, where she originally started years before. As a roving reporter, Pardo covered earthquakes to guerrilla warfare, military coup d'etats to democratic election victories in Central, South America, and the Caribbean, extensively covered U.S. Presidential Elections and national conventions to visiting remote places where essentials are non-existent, the selection of a new Pope to reporting about under-developed countries experiencing widespread cases of hunger, misery, and diseases.

Pardo has interviewed despicable brutal and un-democratic dictators like Fidel Castro as well as moving and inspiring public figures like U.S. President Barack Obama, covered victims of widespread terrorists' acts to being an innocent victim herself in an unfortunate restaurant bombing incident in Colombia's drug cartel-friendly environment. Pardo has been known for having a well-rounded perspective of our times.

**Replacement
H-15**

As a local reporter for Channel 23, covering the local angle, she started a well-known segment aired during the news hour called Aplausos y Trompetillas. On this segment, Pardo would report on the trials and tribulations of local political leaders and institutions of South Florida. Although not too popular with some of those leaders, the segment became a critically-acclaimed item during the evening news hour and a great attraction to the general public unaware of the goings-on of their local government leaders.

During the past decade, Bernadette Pardo joined the ranks of Univisión Radio as a program host working the morning hours during drive time. First at WQBA and later at WAQI (Radio Mambí), Pardo hosted the "Peladeando con Bernadette Pardo Show" where the day's news, political issues, current events and interviews on a wide variety of topics are vigorously discussed by program participants, guests and call-in listening audience as well.

Bernadette Pardo graduated from Manhattanville College of New York majoring in English Literature and Russian studies. Pardo also attended Stanford University and Florida State University where she did graduate work in communications.

Throughout her entire life, Bernadette Pardo has been a strong believer in education and a staunch supporter of academic achievement. This driving love for the learning profession stems from her family's strong participation in the educational process in her native Cuba. Her paternal grandfather, José Pardo, was superintendent of schools for Las Villas Province in Central Cuba and her two aunts, Graciela and Ester, were devoted teachers, totally dedicated to the teaching profession. Following the family's affinity for education, Pardo's daughter, Tatiana, who is in her mid-twenties, shares her family's link to education being a passionate teacher herself.

**ACTION PROPOSED BY
DR. MARTA PÉREZ:**

That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, approve Resolution No. 14-086 of The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, honoring Bernadette Pardo for her outstanding contributions to the community.