

Dr. Marta Pérez, Board Member

**SUBJECT: REQUEST APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION NO. 14-095 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**

Today we are recognizing a journalist whose contributions to our community have inspired countless young men and women to pursue journalism as a career. Bernadette Pardo is a leader in this highly competitive but rewarding field.

Ms. Pardo's illustrious career began 40 years ago as a reporter for Channel 23, where she frequently travelled to remote places to interview fascinating individuals from all walks of life. She later joined WPLG Channel 10 as Editorial Director where she helped draft and disseminate the station's opinions on diverse issues affecting the local community. In the early eighties she relocated to Tallahassee where she served as speechwriter to then Florida Governor Bob Graham. She obtained valuable experience in the workings of the state legislative process and state budgetary issues affecting public education.

Upon her return to South Florida in the mid-eighties she again joined Channel 23 as a roving reporter and covered a multitude of high-profile events such as natural disasters, military coup d'etats, presidential elections in the United States, and the selection of a new Pope. She has covered acts of terrorism and became a victim herself in a restaurant bombing incident in Colombia's drug cartel-friendly environment. She has interviewed world leaders from un-democratic dictators like Fidel Castro to inspiring public figures like U.S. President Barack Obama.

Local issues were always close to her heart which led her to start a segment that aired during the news hour called "Aplausos y Trompetillas" about the trials and tribulations of political leaders and institutions. Although not too popular with some of those leaders, the segment became a critically-acclaimed spot during the news hour which attracted large numbers of viewers. She currently hosts a hugely popular radio show, "Pedaleando con Berny", and writes a weekly column for El Nuevo Herald.

Ms. Pardo's educational background includes degrees in English literature and Russian studies from Manhattanville College in New York, and graduate work in communications at Stanford University and Florida State University. Her family includes a former superintendent of schools for the province of Las Villas in Cuba, and two aunts were educators. Following in the family footsteps, Ms. Pardo's daughter, Tatiana, is a teacher as well.

Bernadette Pardo inspires admiration and respect and should be commended for her outstanding professional career.

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

That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, approve Resolution No. 14-095 of The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, honoring Bernadette Pardo for her outstanding contributions to the community.