

Dr. Marta Pérez, Board Member

**SUBJECT: REQUEST APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION NO. 14-104 OF THE
SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA,
HONORING MR. PEDRO PABLO PENA**

**COMMITTEE: INSTRUCTIONAL EXCELLENCE AND COMMUNITY
ENGAGEMENT**

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

Pedro Pablo Peña began his illustrious career in ballet as a young boy in Cuba learning from international acclaimed ballet dancers. He danced for Havana's Opera Ballet, the National Ballet of Cuba, Musical Theater of Havana where he also served as choreographic director, and was the founder and director of the First Choreographic Dance Workshop in Havana. Mr. Peña is very proud of his Cuban heritage as he was born, educated and raised in Havana, Cuba.

Mr. Peña was selected to choreograph Univision's TV show "Sabado Gigante Internacional" and for the Warner Brothers film "The Specialist". He has been recognized and awarded for his work by ACCA, Fesela Inter-American Chapter of Hadassah and honored by Miami art magazine "Pregonos" with the Contradanza Award for his continuous work in the development of dance in Miami.

Ballet Concierto Dominicano, National Ballet of Panama, and the Odeon Theater in Vienna, Austria have invited Mr. Peña to set his choreographic work, "Fusion", in their respective countries. He is founder and director of Creation Art Center (1982), Miami Hispanic Ballet (1993), and one of the most important ballet festivals in the world, the International Ballet Festival of Miami. In 2006 he founded the successful Cuban Classical Ballet of Miami of which he is the Artistic Director.

Mr. Peña has been honored not only for his lifetime artistic achievements but also for his tireless work of promoting the theater, dance and the preservation of Cuban Heritage in exile for all ages and cultures. In 2005, Miami-Dade County proclaimed "Pedro Pablo Peña Day" and the City of Miami presented him with the "Key to the City," and in 2010 he was presented with the "Key to the City" of Miami Beach, honors bestowed on him for his work promoting theater and dance in the community. Most recently Mr. Peña has been awarded The Tumi USA Award 2013, awarded to notable Peruvian and Latin American figures of South Florida.

In 2011, Mr. Pena was selected by ABC "Dancing with the stars" program for a "Behind the Scenes" interview about classical ballet, making him the first Hispanic Ballet director to be interviewed for this show. Mr. Peña has been selected to serve on an elite jury for one of the most famous and prestigious dance awards in the world, the Benois de la Dance in May 2011 held in Moscow.

Mr. Pedro Pablo Pena is to be commended for his tireless work in fostering the arts in our community.

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

That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, approve Resolution No. 14-104 of The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, honoring Mr. Pedro Pablo Pena for his outstanding contributions to the community.

**RESOLUTION NO. 14-104
OF THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA, HONORING
MR. PEDRO PABLO PEÑA**

WHEREAS, born and raised in Havana, Cuba, Pedro Pablo Peña began his illustrious career in ballet as a young boy in Cuba learning from internationally acclaimed ballet dancers. He danced for Havana's Opera Ballet, the National Ballet of Cuba, and the Musical Theater of Havana, where he also served as choreographer. He also was the founder and director of the first Choreographic Dance Workshop in Havana; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Peña arrived in Miami in 1980. He spent seven consecutive years as the choreographer for Univision's TV Show, "Sabado Gigante Internacional," and was selected by Warner Brothers as choreographer for the film "The Specialist"; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Pena is general director of the Creation Art Center, founder and director of the International Ballet Festival of Miami, which has been recognized as one of the premiere dance events in the U.S., and as the artistic director of the Cuban Classical Ballet of Miami; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Peña has been honored not only for his lifetime artistic achievements but also for his tireless work of promoting the theater, dance and the preservation of Cuban Heritage in exile for all ages and cultures; and

WHEREAS, Miami-Dade County proclaimed September 26, 2005, to be "Pedro Pablo Peña Day," and that same day the City of Miami presented him with the Key to the City for his spirited work for the arts in our community. In 2010, he was honored by the City of Miami Beach for his work promoting theater and dance in the community. Most recently, Mr. Peña was awarded The Tumi USA Award 2013, which is awarded to notable Latin American figures of South Florida; and

WHEREAS, In 2011, Mr. Pena became the first Hispanic ballet director to be interviewed by ABC's "Dancing With The Stars" about classical ballet. Mr. Peña also was selected to serve on an elite jury for one of the most famous and prestigious dance awards in the world, the Benois de la Dance held in Moscow; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Pedro Pablo Peña is to be commended for his enthusiastic work in fostering the arts in our community;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, approve Resolution No. 14-104 of The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, honoring Mr. Pedro Pablo Peña.

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

Presented this nineteenth day of November, A.D. 2014

THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA

CHAIR

ATTEST:

Secretary

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