

Dr. Dorothy Bendross-Mindingall, Board Member

**SUBJECT:** REQUEST FOR APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION NO. 14-116  
OF THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY,  
FLORIDA, RECOGNIZING AMARILLIS SIERRA

**COMMITTEE:** INSTRUCTIONAL EXCELLENCE AND COMMUNITY  
ENGAGEMENT

**LINK TO STRATEGIC  
FRAMEWORK:** EDUCATION

There is no more fitting example of service and dedication than teaching. There is no finer example of that than Amarillis Sierra, a Language Arts Instructor at Booker T. Washington Sr. High School.

At age 65, Amarillis Sierra has spent a half a century in service to humanity, by ensuring that future generations will be able to communicate and share their ideas.

For the last nine years, Amarillis Sierra has been a fixture at Booker T. Washington Sr. High School where she is loved by students, faculty, and administrators. She is not only admired for her love of teaching, but for her determination and perseverance. For over 13 years, she has fought her own personal battle with cancer, and through it she has used her love for children and teaching to see her through. Ms. Sierra's compassion and dedication is shown through her motto "Teaching is my life, and the students give me life. If I am not able to teach, I will die."

Despite her battle with cancer, Amarillis Sierra arrives at the school at 6:30 a.m. every morning. She spends a full day teaching and sharing the gift of knowledge. When asked why she continues to teach despite the many obstacles she faces, her response is always that: "God has given me a lot, and I have the fortitude to go on and continue to educate the children because they give me strength but most importantly, they give me love."

This item does not appear on the published Agenda. There exists good cause to vary from the published Agenda in order to timely and properly recognize Ms. Sierra for her extraordinary service to this school district.

**ACTION PROPOSED BY**

**DR. DOROTHY BENDROSS-MINDINGALL:** That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, approve Resolution No. 14-116 of The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, recognizing Amarillis Sierra.

**Good Cause  
H-16**

**RESOLUTION NO. 14-116  
OF THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA  
RECOGNIZING AMARILLIS SIERRA**

**WHEREAS**, there is no more fitting example of service and dedication than teaching. There is no finer example of that than Amarillis Sierra, a Language Arts Instructor at Booker T. Washington Sr. High School; and

**WHEREAS**, at age 65, Amarillis Sierra has spent a half a century in service to humanity, by ensuring that future generations will be able to communicate and share their ideas; and

**WHEREAS**, for the last nine years, Amarillis Sierra has been a fixture at Booker T. Washington Sr. High School where she is loved by students, faculty, and administrators. She is not only admired for her love of teaching, but for her determination and perseverance. For over 13 years, she has fought her own personal battle with cancer, and through it she has used her love for children and teaching to see her through. Ms. Sierra's compassion and dedication is shown through her motto "Teaching is my life, and the students give me life. If I am not able to teach, I will die;" and

**WHEREAS**, despite her battle with cancer, Amarillis Sierra arrives at the school at 6:30 a.m. every morning. She spends a full day teaching and sharing the gift of knowledge. When asked why she continues to teach despite the many obstacles she faces, her response is always that: "God has given me a lot, and I have the fortitude to go on and continue to educate the children because they give me strength but most importantly, they give me love."

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT:**

The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, approve Resolution No. 14-116 of The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, recognizing Amarillis Sierra.

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

**Presented this tenth day of December, A.D. 2014**

THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA

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CHAIR

**ATTEST:**

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Secretary