

Ms. Lubby Navarro, Board Member

SUBJECT: REQUEST APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION NO. 15-050 OF THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA, RECOGNIZING HAMMOCKS MIDDLE SCHOOL TEACHER MS. SUSAN RYAN

COMMITTEE: INNOVATION, GOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS & COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

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

A native of Brooklyn, New York, Ms. Susan Ryan moved to Miami in 1958 with her parents and two brothers. Susan is a product of the Miami-Dade County public school system. She skipped the first grade at Everglades Elementary School and was placed in the Resource classes (gifted). At the age of 7, Susan was named Little Miss Seven by Channel 7. She won a talent search for Chuck Zink at the age of 11, and appeared on the *Popeye's Playhouse* as a weekly regular singer. She later attended Rockway Elementary and Junior High where she continued her interest in chorus and dance. She was voted Most Creative Dancer.

Ms. Ryan attended Coral Park Senior High School where she sang and acted through three years of high school productions and Thespian awards. She also represented Coral Park Senior High as the Silver Knight in theatre. She was also a semifinalist for the Miss Teenage Miami pageant.

Ms. Ryan was awarded a scholarship to attend Miami Dade Community College where she received an Associate's Degree. Thereafter, she attended Florida State University where she received a Bachelor's Degree in Theatre. Lastly, she received a Master's Degree in English Education from Florida International University. She was the first theatre student who wanted an "education" degree to teach theatre; therefore, they started a theatre education program just for her.

From 1974 thru 2015 Ms. Ryan has taught Theatre, Speech and Language Arts at Palmetto Middle School, McMillan Middle School, Southwood Middle School and Hammocks Middle School. For the past 2 years, Ms. Ryan has served as the Department Chair for Electives at Hammocks Middle School.

Ms. Ryan has received numerous awards throughout her illustrious career such as: Teacher of the Year, McMillan Middle School in 1983; Teacher of the Year, Hammocks Middle School in 1991; Dade Association of Theatre Educators Theatre Teacher of the Year in 2002.

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Ms. Ryan was nominated by her former student, Randall Emmett, a film producer, who was her student at Hammocks Middle School for the prestigious The Creative Coalition's "Teachers Making a Difference Award." She traveled to Park City, Utah, to receive her award and be honored at the Sundance Film Festival on January 24, 2015.

Ms. Ryan is retiring on May 29th, and she plans to move to the Carolinas. She will continue to be involved with children's theatre on a part-time basis.

Ms. Susan Ryan is to be commended for ~~40~~ years of service and dedication to the students and families of Miami-Dade County Public Schools. Her commitment to excellence has enriched the lives of countless students.

**ACTION PROPOSED BY
LUBBY NAVARRO:**

That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, approve Resolution No. 15-050 of The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, recognizing Hammocks Middle School teacher Ms. Susan Ryan.

**RESOLUTION NO. 15-050
OF THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA,
RECOGNIZING HAMMOCKS MIDDLE SCHOOL TEACHER MS. SUSAN RYAN**

WHEREAS, Ms. Susan Ryan has been a theatre teacher for 40 years, 30 of them spent at Hammocks Middle School.

WHEREAS, Ms. Ryan is a product of Miami-Dade County public schools, and she has excelled in the areas of Theatre, Drama, Chorus and Dance.

WHEREAS, Ms. Ryan tries to create a family with her students because it shows them that there is place for everyone in the theatre.

WHEREAS, Ms. Susan Ryan has won numerous awards including Teacher of the Year, Theatre Teacher of the Year, and Teachers Making a Difference Awards.

WHEREAS, Susan Ryan is an accomplished educator who has made a difference in the lives of countless students.

WHEREAS, Ms. Susan Ryan is commended for her commitment to the students and families of Miami-Dade County Public Schools.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, approve Resolution No. 15-050 of The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida recognizing Hammocks Middle School Teacher Ms. Susan Ryan.

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

Presented this thirteenth day of May, A.D. 2015

THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA

CHAIR

ATTEST:

Secretary