

Ms. Lubby Navarro, Board Member

**SUBJECT: REQUEST APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION NO. 16-102 OF THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA, RECOGNIZING PARENT TO PARENT OF MIAMI**

**COMMITTEE: INNOVATION, GOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS & COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT**

**LINK TO STRATEGIC BLUEPRINT: INFORMED, ENGAGED AND EMPOWERED STAKEHOLDERS**

Parent to Parent of Miami a non-profit organization, founded in 1986, is geared towards supporting parents with children with disabilities in our community. Ms. Paula Lalinde, served as its founder and first president and established a board of trustees along with Ms. Iliana C. Hernandez, Ms. Marci Mesa and Mr. Chris and Mrs. Ven Sequenzia, together they developed this organization to provide the community with a parent resource center that supports families of children with disabilities.

Parent to Parent of Miami works closely with Miami-Dade County Public Schools to offer information, workshops, and other resources to empower parents on issues such as early intervention, educational support for students with special needs, vocational training, employment, and post- secondary opportunities.

This organization, unifies families from all types of disability groups, by establishing better outreach to parents through their service model by fostering parent volunteers as its organizational "life-line" for thousands of families throughout Miami-Dade County.

Parent to Parent of Miami, provides much needed support to parents by helping families understand their children's disabilities and educational needs, they teach parents on how to communicate more effectively with school personnel, they educate parents to understand their rights and responsibilities, they help them obtain the appropriate services for their children and they link parents to other community resources that assist children, youths and adults with disabilities.

In 1990, Parent to Parent of Miami, received the support of the Community Committee for Developmental Handicaps (CCDH), as well as, the Florida Diagnostic Learning Resource Systems (FDLRS) and The March of Dimes, to support the organizations efforts to outreach and provide peer support to families with young children with disabilities.

The District's collaboration with Parent to Parent of Miami, includes working closely with the organization on specific concerns/cases and eliciting their critical perspective on issues of importance to children with disabilities and their families through their participation in the Superintendent's District Advisory Panel for Students with Disabilities. With this ongoing partnership, we are jointly focused on the ultimate goal of improving outcomes for students with disabilities and their families in our community.

Furthermore, as October is National Disabilities Awareness Month, this resolution recognizes the critical role that Parent to Parent of Miami, fulfills for our community, by carrying out their mission to cultivate parental involvement for families with children with disabilities, which will ensure our students thrive.

**ACTION PROPOSED BY  
LUBBY NAVARRO:**

That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, approve Resolution No. 16-102 of The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, recognizing Parent to Parent of Miami.

**RESOLUTION NO. 16-102  
OF THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA,  
RECOGNIZING PARENT TO PARENT OF MIAMI**

**WHEREAS**, Parent to Parent of Miami a non-profit organization, founded in 1986, is geared towards supporting parents with children with disabilities in our community; and

**WHEREAS**, Parent to Parent of Miami works closely with Miami-Dade County Public Schools to offer information, workshops, and other resources to empower parents on issues such as early intervention, educational support for students with special needs, vocational training, employment, and post-secondary opportunities; and

**WHEREAS**, this organization, unifies families from all types of disability groups, by establishing better outreach to parents through their service model by fostering parent volunteers as its organizational “life-line” for thousands of families throughout Miami-Dade County; and

**WHEREAS**, Parent to Parent of Miami, provides much needed support to parents by helping families understand their children’s disabilities and educational needs, they teach parents on how to communicate more effectively with school personnel, they educate parents to understand their rights and responsibilities, they help them obtain the appropriate services for their children and they link parents to other community resources that assist children, youths and adults with disabilities; and

**WHEREAS**, in 1990, Parent to Parent of Miami, received the support of the Community Committee for Developmental Handicaps (CCDH), as well as, the Florida Diagnostic Learning Resource Systems (FDLRS) and The March of Dimes, to support the organizations efforts to outreach and provide peer support to families with young children with disabilities; and

**WHEREAS**, the District’s collaboration with Parent to Parent of Miami, includes working closely with the organization on specific concerns/cases and eliciting their critical perspective on issues of importance to children with disabilities and their families through their participation in the Superintendent’s District Advisory Panel for Students with Disabilities; and

**WHEREAS**, October is National Disabilities Awareness Month, this resolution recognizes the critical role that Parent to Parent of Miami, fulfills for our community, by carrying out their mission to cultivate parental involvement for families with children with disabilities, which will ensure our students thrive.

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

The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, approve Resolution No. 16-103 of The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, recognizing Parent to Parent of Miami.

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

**Presented this fifth day of October, A.D. 2016**

THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA

\_\_\_\_\_  
CHAIR

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Secretary