

Dr. Lawrence Feldman, Board Member

**SUBJECT: REQUEST APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION No. 16-109 OF THE
SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA,
RECOGNIZING JOSEPH CORTESE**

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

**LINK TO STRATEGIC
BLUEPRINT: HIGHLY EFFECTIVE TEACHERS, LEADERS AND STAFF**

Joseph A. Cortese, a native Miamian who graduated with honors from Miami Springs Senior High School, chose to follow his father's footsteps in a lifelong career with Miami-Dade County Public Schools (M-DCPS). He commenced his career with M-DCPS over 43 years ago, dedicating himself to ensuring safe and functional learning environment and facilities for the students of M-DCPS.

Joe's dedication to professional development and growth are hallmarks of his service. He completed an apprenticeship as a pipefitter/welder, and holds three Journeyman licenses and is also licensed by the Department of Professional Regulations and The Property and Environment Research Center. Additionally, he has finished the "Train the Trainer" course from University of Florida, and is certified and/or licensed as an Asbestos Supervisor, Asbestos Inspector, Hazardous Waste Operator, Hazardous-Material Supervisor, and First Responder. Joe's institutional knowledge and trade skills are unrivaled and have benefited the District as it has grown and developed through the decades.

During his 15 year tenure as the Business Representative and Chief Negotiator for M-DCPS Maintenance workers through Miami-Dade Schools Maintenance Employee Committee (DCSMEC), he has lobbied in Tallahassee, worked with the District, the Union Coalition, the Superintendent and his Cabinet to negotiate contracts, secure benefits and protect the workforce. He has shared a mutual goal with Senior Management and the School Board to maintain public schools for the students and communities of Miami Dade. Although Joe carried the distinct responsibility of representing his workforce and safeguarding their interests as he negotiated contracts through difficult financial periods, he was known for his jovial personality, charisma and spirit. The consummate gentleman and Renaissance man, Joe had a kind word for all he encountered and often shared his love of poetry and song with those blessed enough to cross his path.

No one exemplifies Joe's motto more than Joe himself: "Anyone can be part of a problem, but it takes courage to be part of a solution." Time and again, he has proven to us his unyielding commitment to solving problems for the greater good and enhancing relationships to meet that end. On the occasion of his retirement, Mr. Joseph A. Cortese is to be commended for the meritorious service, loyalty and dedication he has rendered to M-DCPS during his 43 years of service.

**ACTION PROPOSED BY
DR. LAWRENCE FELDMAN:**

That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, approve Resolution No. 16-109 of the School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, recognizing Joseph A. Cortese.

**RESOLUTION NO. 16-109
OF THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA,
RECOGNIZING JOSEPH A. CORTESE**

WHEREAS, Joseph A. Cortese, a native Miamian who graduated with honors from Miami Springs Senior High School, chose to follow his father's footsteps in a lifelong career with Miami-Dade County Public Schools (M-DCPS). He commenced his career with M-DCPS over 43 years ago, dedicating himself to ensuring safe and functional learning environment and facilities for the students of M-DCPS.

WHEREAS, Joe's dedication to professional development and growth are hallmarks of his service. He completed an apprenticeship as a pipefitter/welder, and holds three Journeyman licenses and is also licensed by the Department of Professional Regulations and The Property and Environment Research Center. Additionally, he has finished the "Train the Trainer" course from University of Florida, and is certified and/or licensed as an Asbestos Supervisor, Asbestos Inspector, Hazardous Waste Operator, Hazardous-Material Supervisor, and First Responder. Joe's institutional knowledge and trade skills are unrivaled and have benefited the District as it has grown and developed through the decades.

WHEREAS, During his 15 year tenure as the Business Representative and Chief Negotiator for M-DCPS Maintenance workers through Miami-Dade Schools Maintenance Employee Committee (DCSMEC), he has lobbied in Tallahassee, worked with the District, the Union Coalition, the Superintendent and his Cabinet to negotiate contracts, secure benefits and protect the workforce. He has shared a mutual goal with Senior Management and the School Board to maintain public schools for the students and communities of Miami Dade.

WHEREAS, Although Joe carried the distinct responsibility of representing his workforce and safeguarding their interests as he negotiated contracts through difficult financial periods, he was known for his jovial personality, charisma and spirit. The consummate gentleman and Renaissance man, Joe had a kind word for all he encountered and often shared his love of poetry and song with those blessed enough to cross his path.

WHEREAS, No one exemplifies Joe's motto more than Joe himself: "Anyone can be part of a problem, but it takes courage to be part of a solution." Time and again, he has proven to us his unyielding commitment to solving problems for the greater good and enhancing relationships to meet that end. On the occasion of his retirement, Mr. Joseph A. Cortese is to be commended for the meritorious service, loyalty and dedication he has rendered to M-DCPS during his 43 years of service.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, approve Resolution No. 16-109 of The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, recognizing Joseph A. Cortese.

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

Presented this twenty-third day of November, A.D. 2016

THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA

CHAIR

ATTEST:

Secretary