

Ms. Lubby Navarro, Board Member

**SUBJECT: REQUEST APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION NO. 17-049 OF THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA, RECOGNIZING DR. MARIA T. Riestra-Quintero**

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

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

Dr. Maria T. Riestra-Quintero has proudly served the students of Miami-Dade County Public Schools (M-DCPS) for nearly three decades. She has garnered a sterling reputation as a dedicated public servant and advocate for early childhood education.

Under her most recent appointment, she served as the Executive Director of the Head Start and Early Head Start Programs for the Department of Early Childhood Programs, where she provided guidance and leadership to achieve high standards of quality, internally and through public and private sector partnerships. Dr. Riestra-Quintero led the programs mission to promote school preparation by enhancing the social and cognitive development of children through the provision of educational, health, nutritional, social and other services. As a federally funded program, she succeeded in obtaining perfect State and Federal Audits since the inception of the program in 2012. She served in this office until March 22, 2017.

Currently, she is the Chief of School Readiness and Early Childhood programs at Miami-Dade County, where she leads the largest program in the State of Florida with 25 Head Start and Early Head Start Delegate agencies. } Added

Dr. Riestra-Quintero has served M-DCPS in various capacities, including District Supervisor and Curriculum Support Specialist in the Department of Early Childhood Programs, where she coordinated and conducted professional development and technical support for pre-kindergarten teachers, paraprofessionals, and administrators related to the curriculum and instruction of prekindergarten students. Dr. Riestra-Quintero was also instrumental in the development and implementation of the Early Head Start Child Care Partnership with the United Way of Miami at Ethel F. Beckford Richmond Elementary School, where the program serves as a model in effective seamless transition from birth to school entry.

Dr. Riestra-Quintero's dedication to professional development and growth are hallmarks of her service. She has helped new teachers develop, through Master's level programs at Nova Southeastern University Fischler College of Education, where she has served as an adjunct professor since 2008.

Dr. Riestra-Quintero's career is highlighted by numerous accolades and recognitions. She was the recipient of the Great Educator and Mentor (GEM) Award. In 2000, she was the Region IV finalist for Teacher of the Year, Teacher of the Year for Shenandoah Elementary School and became a National Board Certified teacher. Additionally, she was selected to participate in Univision's National Campaign "Pequeños y Valiosos", where she promoted the importance of early childhood education for future school success.

Dr. Maria T. Riestra-Quintero is to be commended for 27 years of loyal service to Miami-Dade County Public Schools. Her commitment to early childhood education has enriched the lives of students and families for generations to come.

**ACTION PROPOSED BY  
LUBBY NAVARRO:**

That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, approve Resolution No. 17-049 of The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, recognizing Dr. Maria T. Riestra-Quintero.

**RESOLUTION NO. 17-049  
OF THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA,  
RECOGNIZING DR. MARIA T. RIESTRA-QUINTERO**

**WHEREAS**, Dr. Maria T. Riestra-Quintero has proudly served the students of Miami-Dade County Public Schools (M-DCPS) for nearly three decades. She has garnered a sterling reputation as a dedicated public servant and advocate for early childhood education; and

**WHEREAS**, under her most recent appointment, she served as the Executive Director of the Head Start and Early Head Start Programs for the Department of Early Childhood Programs, where she provided guidance and leadership to achieve high standards of quality, internally and through public and private sector partnerships; and

**WHEREAS**, currently, she is the Chief of School Readiness and Early Childhood programs at Miami-Dade County, where she leads the largest program in the State of Florida with 25 Head Start and Early Head Start Delegate agencies. } Added

**WHEREAS**, Dr. Riestra-Quintero has served M-DCPS in various capacities, including District Supervisor and Curriculum Support Specialist in the Department of Early Childhood Programs, where she coordinated and conducted professional development and technical support for pre-kindergarten teachers, paraprofessionals, and administrators related to the curriculum and instruction of prekindergarten students; and

**WHEREAS**, Dr. Riestra-Quintero's dedication to professional development and growth are hallmarks of her service. She has helped new teachers develop, through Master's level programs at Nova Southeastern University Fischler College of Education, where she has served as an adjunct professor since 2008; and

**WHEREAS**, Dr. Riestra-Quintero's career is highlighted by numerous accolades and recognitions. She was the recipient of the Great Educator and Mentor (GEM) Award. In 2000, she was the Region IV finalist for Teacher of the Year, Teacher of the Year for Shenandoah Elementary School and became a National Board Certified teacher; and

**WHEREAS**, Dr. Maria T. Riestra-Quintero is to be commended for 27 years of loyal service to Miami-Dade County Public Schools. Her commitment to early childhood education has enriched the lives of students and families for generations to come.

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

The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, approve Resolution No 17-049 of The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, recognizing Dr. Maria T. Riestra-Quintero.

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

**Presented this fifth day of April, A.D. 2017**

THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA

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CHAIR

ATTEST:

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Secretary