

Dr. Lawrence Feldman, Board Member

Co-Sponsors: Ms. Perla Tabares Hantman, Chair  
Dr. Martin Karp, Vice Chair  
Dr. Steve Gallon III, Board Member  
Ms. Lubby Navarro, Board Member  
Dr. Marta Perez, Board Member  
Ms. Maria Teresa Rojas, Board Member

} Added

**SUBJECT: REQUEST APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION NO. 18-002 OF THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA, RECOGNIZING THE LISTENERS/OYENTES PROGRAM**

**COMMITTEE: ACADEMICS, INNOVATION, EVALUATION AND TECHNOLOGY**

**LINK TO STRATEGIC BLUEPRINT: SAFE, HEALTHY AND SUPPORTIVE LEARNING ENVIRONMENT**

The Listeners/Oyentes Program has been a successful partner with Miami-Dade County Public Schools for over forty years. The program supports teachers and counselors by providing trained and compassionate volunteers who serve to listen to children and act as caring adults in their lives. Listeners/Oyentes often provide an outlet for students who are dealing with an array of emotions and difficult circumstances. Provided with an opportunity to speak and be heard, students often return to the classroom better equipped to learn and navigate the emotional demands of their day.

The Listeners/Oyentes program seeks nonjudgmental English or Spanish speaking adults to act as sounding boards that make a difference in the life of a child. The common goal is to join the student's world without judgment, to help build self-esteem and to empower them to develop their own problem-solving skills. The volunteers are not "fixers" or "rescuers", instead they are "anchors in their student's storms". This allows those targeted students to simply benefit from being able to share their feelings with a non-judgmental, non-advice giving Listener.

The Listeners who are Level 2 cleared volunteers meet with each student at school campuses for at least 30 minutes per week. The volunteers are given on-going training, support and monitored workshops and professional speakers. They communicate with the school counselor and keep all student's information confidential.

The Listeners/Oyentes Program is to be recognized for their over forty years of outstanding commitment and contribution to the students of Miami-Dade County Public Schools.

**ACTION PROPOSED BY**

**DR. LAWRENCE S. FELDMAN:** That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, approve Resolution No. 18-002 of The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, recognizing The Listeners/Oyentes Program for over forty years of outstanding commitment to the students of Miami-Dade County Public Schools.

**RESOLUTION NO. 18-002  
OF THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA,  
RECOGNIZING THE LISTENERS/OYENTES PROGRAM**

**WHEREAS**, The Listeners/Oyentes Program has been a successful partner with Miami-Dade County Public Schools for over forty years. The program serves to support teachers and counselors by providing trained and compassionate volunteers who serve to listen to children and act as caring adults in their lives. Listeners/Oyentes often provide an outlet for students who are dealing with an array of emotions and difficult circumstances. Provided with an opportunity to speak and be heard, students often return to the classroom better equipped to learn and navigate the emotional demands of their day; and

**WHEREAS**, The Listeners/Oyentes program seeks nonjudgmental English or Spanish speaking adults to act as sounding boards that make a difference in the life of a child. The common goal is to join the student's world without judgment, to help build self-esteem and to empower them to develop their own problem-solving skills; and

**WHEREAS**, the volunteers are not fixers or rescuers, instead they are "anchors in their student's storms". This allows those targeted students to simply benefit from being able to share their feelings with a non-judgmental, non-advice giving Listener; and

**WHEREAS**, the Listeners who are Level 2 cleared volunteers meet with each student at school campuses for at least 30 minutes per week. The volunteers are given on-going training, support and monitored workshops and professional speakers. They communicate with the school counselor and keep all student's information confidential; and

**WHEREAS**, Francine Tobin, Chairperson for over forty years along with her husband Herbert created the Francine and Herbert Foundation to insure the continuation of this outstanding program. The Listeners/Oyentes Program is to be recognized for their years of unwavering commitment to the students of Miami-Dade County Public Schools.

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

The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, approve Resolution No. 18-002 of The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, recognizing The Listeners/Oyentes Program for over forty years of outstanding commitment to the students of Miami-Dade County Public Schools.

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

**Presented this seventeenth day of January, A.D. 2018**

THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA

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CHAIR

ATTEST:

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Secretary