

Dr. Dorothy Bendross-Mindingall, Board Member

Co-Sponsors: Ms. Perla T. Hantman, Chair
Dr. Martin Karp, Vice Chair
Ms. Susie Castillo, Board Member
Dr. Lawrence S. Feldman, Board Member
Dr. Steve Gallon III, Board Member
Ms. Lubby Navarro, Board Member
Ms. Maria Teresa Rojas, Board Member

**SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION NO. 18-013
OF THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY,
FLORIDA, RECOGNIZING 2017-2018 TEACHER OF THE
YEAR FINALISTS JUDY RODRIGUEZ AND AARON TAYLOR
AND ROOKIE TEACHER OF THE YEAR FINALIST RICARDO
LOSADA**

**COMMITTEE: PERSONNEL SERVICES AND STUDENT AND SCHOOL
SUPPORT**

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

The value of a teacher in a student's life cannot be overstated. Other than the parent, there is no one else who is considered to be more responsible for what a person becomes than a teacher. A teacher is able to connect to a student and teach lifelong lessons that will sustain them for all time. Our teachers have the ability to inspire students to accomplish goals regardless of the barriers that are before them. This year, our school district recognized three finalists from District 2 as the Teacher of the Year and Rookie Teacher of the Year. These teachers have exemplified their unwavering commitment to teaching, inspiring, and serving this present age and generation.

Judy Rodriguez is the youngest of eight children born to an immigrant family in New York City and grew up in Elizabeth, New Jersey. Ms. Rodriguez received her Masters of Science Degree in Education with a specialization in Reading, Special Education, and English Language Learners from the University of Miami in 2007 and a Specialist Degree in Educational Leadership from Nova Southeastern University in 2012. She possesses 20 years of experience as an educator and holds a valid State of Florida teaching certification in five areas. In 2016 Judy led her student to win first place at the 2016 South Florida Network for Teaching Entrepreneurship (NFTE) Regional Youth Entrepreneurship Challenge, which qualified the student to advance to top 12 in the National NFTE Business Challenge in New York City. Ms. Rodriguez was a Teacher of the Year Finalist.

Aaron Taylor was born and raised in Miami Florida. He is one of six children. His mother is a retired educator of Miami-Dade County Public Schools. Aaron started his certified teaching career in 2011 at Henry E.S. Reeves Elementary as a 2nd and 3rd Grade English Language Arts (ELA) teacher. He currently teaches 4th grade English Language Arts (ELA) and has endorsements in Gifted and English Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL). In addition, he serves as Grade Level Chair, is a member of the Educational Excellence School Advisory Council Committee (EESAC) and Parent Teacher Association (PTA) at Henry Reeves Elementary School. Mr. Taylor was a Teacher of the Year Finalist.

Ricardo Losada who is the Marine Service Technology Professor at Lindsey Technical College. Lindsey Hopkins Technical College is the only institution that offers the program which receives tremendous support from the Miami Bayside Foundation and the City of Miami. The students completed internships with Yamaha in Georgia and local maritime companies. Mr. Losada graduated his first class in December 2017 as full program completers, and they all obtained gainful employment upon graduation. Mr. Losada was a finalist for Rookie Teacher of the Year.

ACTION PROPOSED BY

DR. DOROTHY BENDROSS-MINDINGALL:

That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, approve Resolution No. 18-013 of The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, recognizing 2017-2018 Teacher of the Year Finalists Judy Rodriguez and Aaron Taylor and Rookie Teacher of the Year Finalist Ricardo Losada.

RESOLUTION NO. 18-013
OF THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA, RECOGNIZING 2017-2018 TEACHER OF THE YEAR FINALISTS JUDY RODRIGUEZ AND AARON TAYLOR AND ROOKIE TEACHER OF THE YEAR FINALIST RICARDO LOSADA

WHEREAS, the value of a teacher in a student's life cannot be overstated. Our teachers have the ability to inspire students to accomplish goals regardless of the barriers that are before them. This year, our school district recognized three finalist from District 2 as Teacher of the Year and Rookie Teacher of the Year. These teachers have exemplified their unwavering commitment to teaching, inspiring, and serving this present age and generation and;

WHEREAS, Judy Rodriguez received her Masters of Science Degree in Education with a specialization in Reading, Special Education and English Language Learners from the University of Miami in 2007 and a Specialist Degree in Educational Leadership from Nova Southeastern University in 2012. She has 20 years of experience as an educator and holds a valid State of Florida teaching certification in five areas; and

WHEREAS, Aaron Taylor began his teaching career in 2011 at Henry E.S. Reeves Elementary as a 2nd and 3rd Grade English Language Arts (ELA) teacher. He currently teaches 4th grade English Language Arts (ELA) and has endorsements in Gifted and English Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL). In addition, he serves as Grade Level Chair, is a member of the Educational Excellence School Advisory Council Committee (EESAC) and Parent Teacher Association (PTA) at Henry Reeves Elementary School. Mr. Taylor was a Teacher of the Year Finalist and;

WHEREAS, Ricardo Losada who is the Marine Service Technology Professor at Lindsey Technical College. Lindsey Hopkins Technical College is the only institution that offers the program which receives tremendous support from the Miami Bayside Foundation and the City of Miami. Mr. Losada graduated his first class in December 2017 as full program completers, and they all obtained gainful employment upon graduation. Mr. Losada was a finalist for Rookie Teacher of the Year.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, approve Resolution No. 18-013 of The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, recognizing 2017-2018 Teacher of the Year Finalists Judy Rodriguez and Aaron Taylor and Rookie Teacher of the Year Finalist Ricardo Losada.

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

Presented this twenty-first day of February, A.D. 2018

THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA

CHAIR

ATTEST:

SECRETARY