

Dr. Dorothy Bendross-Mindingall, Board Member

SUBJECT: THAT THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA, RECOGNIZE AND OBSERVE MAY 2018 AS HAITIAN HERITAGE MONTH AND AUTHORIZING ADMINISTRATIVE ACTIONS TO FOSTER RELATED ACTIVITIES

COMMITTEE: ACADEMICS, INNOVATION, EVALUATION, & TECHNOLOGY

LINK TO STRATEGIC BLUEPRINT: RELEVANT, RIGOROUS & INNOVATIVE ACADEMICS

Throughout the history of Haiti, May has been a month for commemorating Haitian culture, with Haitians across the globe celebrating their achievements and contributions. An important date in Haitian history is May 18, 1803 when the official Haitian flag, of blue and red was created by Haitian leaders at the end of the Congress of Arcahaie. Haitian Heritage Month provides our very diverse community an opportunity to recognize and celebrate the many historic, cultural, social and economic contributions of Haitians to the United States and the world. The observance of Haitian Heritage Month will allow students, their families, and the community to share in the rich culture and history of Haiti.

On January 1, 1804, Haiti gained its independence from France to become the world's first Black republic and the second country in the Americas to free itself from colonial rule. For over a century later, the Haitian people assisted in the liberation of slaves throughout South America and the Western Hemisphere. The people of Haiti and their descendants have also made numerous contributions to politics as well as the arts and sciences. For example, Jean Baptiste Point DuSable is known as the founder of the city of Chicago. The National Audubon Society was founded in honor of John James Audubon, a Haitian born nationalist, ornithologist, and artist.

Miami-Dade County Public Schools provides students with many programs that emphasize multicultural education, positive inter-group relations, and cultural sensitivity to promote understanding and harmony among people of all cultures.

ACTION PROPOSED BY

DR. DOROTHY BENDROSS-MINDINGALL: That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, observe the month of May 2018 as Haitian Heritage Month.