

Ms. Lubby Navarro, Board Member

**SUBJECT: REQUEST APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION NO. 18-075 OF
THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA,
RECOGNIZING RAYMOND AND SHANNAH RODRIGUEZ-
TORRES**

COMMITTEE: FISCAL ACCOUNTABILITY & GOVERNMENT RELATIONS

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

Mr. Raymond and Mrs. Shannah Rodriguez-Torres are Bella and Rayna's parents, and the founder and Vice Chair of The Live Like Bella® Foundation. The Live Like Bella® Foundation was founded in 2013 and is a nonprofit organization inspired by Bella Rodriguez-Torres that provides assistance to families and children affected by childhood cancer. As parents whose lives have been affected by the illness, they have chosen to raise awareness and offer emotional and financial support to families who have been affected by childhood cancer.

Mr. Raymond Rodriguez-Torres was born in Toledo, Ohio and raised in Miami, Florida. He received his bachelor's degree in Health Service Management from Columbus University, his Professional Proficient Coaching Certification from the University of Miami and his Master's Degree in Non-Profit Management from Oral Roberts University, where he graduated with honors. Additionally, Mr. Rodriguez-Torres has received many accolades and recognitions including the prestigious "Outstanding Masters of Management Student Award" and is listed in Who's Who in Executives and Business and Among Top Executives. After Bella was diagnosed with Stage Four Alveolar Rhabdomyosarcoma, Mr. Rodriguez-Torres became a highly acclaimed inspirational speaker and author recounting her miraculous story of courage and strength as Bella overcame paralysis and cancer when it was never thought possible.

Ms. Shannah Rodriguez-Torres received her Bachelor in Science in Special Education from the University of Florida. In February 2013, while Bella was recovering, Shannah made a social media post that went viral. Shannah's post encouraged many around the world to pray and Live Like Bella and thus the hashtag #LiveLikeBella began, an extraordinary movement of awareness about childhood cancer. Mrs. Rodriguez-Torres works with the executive director and board of directors of the The Live Like Bella® Foundation to ensure that the strategic mission and vision is accomplished. Mrs. Rodriguez-Torres continues to fight and care for children and families with the goal of finding the cure for childhood cancer.

Raymond and Shannah Rodriguez-Torres are to be commended for their dedication and support to families and children affected by childhood cancer.

ACTION PROPOSED BY

LUBBY NAVARRO:

That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, approve Resolution No. 18-075 of The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, Recognizing Raymond and Shannah Rodriguez-Torres.