

Dr. Lawrence S. Feldman, Board Member

**SUBJECT: REQUEST APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION NO. 18-084 OF THE
SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA,
RECOGNIZING THE NATIONAL EDUCATION PROJECT AND
THE BILL OF RIGHTS BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION**

COMMITTEE: PERSONNEL, STUDENT, SCHOOL & COMMUNITY SUPPORT

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

The National Education Project, Inc. (NEP), a non-profit, non-partisan organization based in Washington D.C., is committed to creating a renewed and vibrant awareness of the Bill of Rights and the Constitution of the United States in the lives of Americans across the country. The NEP does not recommend or encourage any particular interpretation of these founding documents, but rather encourages its accessibility by all Americans. One of the NEP's goals is to provide a free copy of the Bill of Rights to every child in the country and "to bequeath to a new generation of Americans the fundamental rights and liberties to which they are entitled by law." To this end, their 'Refrigerator Door Bill of Rights' initiative features a personalized student Bill of Rights form which allows students to sign and affix their picture before posting on the family's refrigerator door (or other place of prominence) as shared and enduring reminder of our guaranteed freedoms.

The NEP also coordinates outreach events aimed at engaging students and young people in celebrating the guaranteed rights and liberties secured through these founding documents. One such yearly event is a birthday celebration in honor of the Bill of Rights. In honor of the 227th birthday of the Bill of Rights, the NEP coordinated classroom celebrations in select cities throughout the nation on December 14th, 2018. This year, alongside cities in Virginia, Ohio, and West Virginia, students in selected fifth grade classrooms within the City of Homestead received their personalized Bill of Rights along with a birthday cake to mark the momentous occasion. The celebration was marked by a student-led read aloud of the ten amendments, followed by the signing of the document, which students were free to take home and share with their families. Students and families were also encouraged to read the Bill of Rights alongside fellow Americans on the evening of December 14, during the Project's 6th annual National Read-Along of the Bill of Rights streamed live from the NEP-hosted ceremony in Washington D.C. Most recently, The School Board of Miami-Dade County endorsed December 15, 2018 as Bill of Rights Day in Miami-Dade County Public Schools.

**Replacement
B-4**

The NEP is led by founder and Executive Director Norman Manasa, who formerly worked at the Supreme Court of the United States and served as personal aide to Chief Justice Warren E. Burger. Mr. Manasa testified before the Commission on the Bicentennial and various committees of Congress and has dedicated much of his life to promoting educational efforts. His work through the NEP has appeared in national publications and televised programs such as the The New York Times, The Washington Times, The Larry King Show and The Diane Rehm Show. Mr. Manasa is committed to expanding the knowledge and understanding of civil liberties through the dissemination and celebration of our founding documents. Mr. Manasa is to be recognized for his efforts, leadership and NEP initiatives aimed at enhancing the quality of education and knowledge of civil liberties for school-aged children throughout the nation.

**ACTION PROPOSED BY
DR. LAWRENCE S. FELDMAN:**

That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, approve Resolution No. 18-084 of The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, recognizing The National Education Project, Inc. and the Bill of Rights Birthday Celebration.

RESOLUTION NO. 18-084
OF THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA,
RECOGNIZING THE NATIONAL EDUCATION PROJECT AND THE BILL OF RIGHTS
BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION

WHEREAS, The National Education Project, Inc. (NEP), a non-profit, non-partisan organization based in Washington D.C., is committed to creating a renewed and vibrant awareness of the Bill of Rights and the Constitution of the United States in the lives of Americans across the country; and

WHEREAS, One of the NEP's goals is to provide a free copy of the Bill of Rights to every child in the country and "to bequeath to a new generation of Americans the fundamental rights and liberties to which they are entitled by law." To this end, their 'Refrigerator Door Bill of Rights' initiative features a personalized student Bill of Rights form which allows students to sign and affix their picture before posting on the family's refrigerator door (or other place of prominence) as a shared and enduring reminder of our guaranteed freedoms; and

WHEREAS, The NEP also coordinates outreach events aimed at engaging students and young people in celebrating the guaranteed rights and liberties secured through these founding documents. One such yearly event is a birthday celebration in honor of the Bill of Rights. In honor of the 227th birthday of the Bill of Rights, the NEP coordinated classroom celebrations in select cities throughout the nation on December 14th, 2018. This year, alongside cities in Virginia, Ohio, and West Virginia, students in selected fifth grade classrooms within the City of Homestead received their personalized Bill of Rights along with a birthday cake to mark the momentous occasion; and

WHEREAS, students and families were also encouraged to read the Bill of Rights alongside fellow Americans on the evening of December 14, during the 6th annual National Read-Along of the Bill of Rights streamed live from the NEP-hosted ceremony in Washington D.C. Most recently, The School Board of Miami-Dade County endorsed December 15, 2018 as Bill of Rights Day in Miami-Dade County Public Schools; and

WHEREAS, the NEP is led by founder and Executive Director Norman Manasa, who formerly worked at the Supreme Court of the United States and served as personal aide to Chief Justice Warren E. Burger. Mr. Manasa testified before the Commission on the Bicentennial and various committees of Congress and has dedicated much of his life to promoting educational efforts. His work through the NEP has appeared in national publications and televised programs such as the The New York Times, The Washington Times, The Larry King Show and The Diane Rehm Show. Mr. Manasa is committed to expanding the knowledge and understanding of our civil liberties through the dissemination and celebration of our founding documents. Mr. Manasa is to be recognized for his efforts, leadership and NEP initiatives aimed at enhancing the quality of education and knowledge of civil liberties for school-aged children throughout the nation.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, approve Resolution No. 18-084 of The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, recognizing The National Education Project.

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

Presented this nineteenth day of December, A.D. 2018

THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA

CHAIR

ATTEST:

Secretary