

Dr. Dorothy Bendross-Mindingall, Board Member

**SUBJECT: THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA,
OBSERVE MAY 2019 AS HAITIAN HERITAGE MONTH**

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 the 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 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. 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.

This item does not appear on the published agenda. There exists good cause to vary from the published agenda in order to timely and properly observe Haitian Heritage Month in May of 2019.

This item has been reviewed and approved as to form and legal sufficiency by the School Board Attorney.

ACTION PROPOSED BY

DR. DOROTHY BENDROSS-MINDINGALL: That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, observe May 2019 as Haitian Heritage Month.

**Good Cause
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