

Ms. Maria Teresa Rojas, Board Member

**SUBJECT: REQUEST APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION NO. 20-001 OF THE
 SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA,
 RECOGNIZING MIKE LOWELL**

COMMITTEE: PERSONNEL, STUDENT, SCHOOL & COMMUNITY SUPPORT

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No one is ever going to hand you a big-league career on a silver platter. In fact, few players have had to climb the mountains that Mike Lowell has had to scale. First drafted by the New York Yankees, the ever-positive third baseman overcame cancer in his rookie year and went on to lead two teams to world championships.

Mike Lowell was born in San Juan, Puerto Rico where his parents had emigrated from Cuba in the 1960s. His family relocated to Miami, Florida, when Mike was four years old. He has always identified himself as a Cuban-American.

Mr. Lowell graduated from Coral Gables Senior High School where he maintained a 4.0 GPA and was a star player on the baseball team. While at Gables High, Mike met and later married his wife Bertha. She was a member of the school's nationally known Gablettes dance team and would one day become its coach. They have one daughter, Alexis, and a son named Anthony.

After graduating from high school, he was awarded an athletic scholarship to attend Florida International University (FIU) to play college baseball for the FIU Panthers baseball team and graduated from FIU with a Bachelor's Degree in Finance. A three-time All Conference player with the Panthers, his uniform number 15 was ultimately retired.

Mr. Lowell was first drafted by the New York Yankees in the 1995 Major League Baseball draft, and eventually made his debut with the Yankees during the 1998 season. He was also converted to play as a third baseman, having been a shortstop and second base in college.

In 1999, Mr. Lowell was traded to the then Florida Marlins where he established himself as one of the elite third baseman in the league. He experienced one of the greatest honor of his professional career when the Florida Marlins won the 2003 World Series against the Yankees in six games. The Marlins traded Mr. Lowell to the Boston Red Sox in 2005. Two years later, the 2007 season turned out to be one of Lowell's best, in which he set career bests in hits, RBI, batting average, and played a key role in helping the Red Sox win their second World Series in four years. He was named the 2007 World Series Most Valuable Player (MVP).

Lowell's autobiography, *Deep Drive: A Long Journey to Finding the Champion Within*, was published in 2008, detailing his recovery from cancer and his rise to World Series champion.

After a number of injuries and surgeries, Mike Lowell returned to professional baseball in 2010. On October 2, 2010, the Boston Red Sox honored Mr. Lowell with an on-field ceremony as he would go on to retire after the 2010 Major League Baseball season was completed.

A 13 year major league career playing for the Yankees, the Marlins, and the Red Sox came to an end. Miami-Dade County Public Schools honors a gold glove winner in 2005, a silver slugger award winner in 2003, a four-time All Star, a two time World Series Champion, and the 2007 World Series MVP.

Mike Lowell now works as an analyst on the MLB Network, appearing on "MLB Tonight."

**ACTION PROPOSED BY
MS. MARIA TERESA ROJAS:**

That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, approve Resolution No. 20-001 of The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, recognizing Mike Lowell.

**RESOLUTION NO. 20-001
OF THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA,
RECOGNIZING MIKE LOWELL**

WHEREAS, Mike Lowell graduated from Coral Gables Senior High School where he maintained a 4.0 GPA and was a star player on the baseball team; and

WHEREAS, while at Gables High, Mike met and later married his wife Bertha and they have one daughter, Alexis, and a son named Anthony; and

WHEREAS, after graduating from high school, he was awarded an athletic scholarship to attend Florida International University (FIU) to play college baseball for the FIU Panthers baseball team and graduated from FIU with a Bachelor's Degree in Finance. A three-time All-Conference player with the Panthers, his uniform number 15 was ultimately retired; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Lowell was first drafted by the New York Yankees in the 1995 Major League Baseball draft, and eventually made his debut with the Yankees during the 1998 season; and

WHEREAS, in 1999, Mr. Lowell was traded to the then Florida Marlins where he established himself as one of the elite third basemen in the league. He experienced one of the greatest honor of his professional career when the Florida Marlins won the 2003 World Series against the Yankees in six games; and

WHEREAS, the Marlins traded Mr. Lowell to the Boston Red Sox in 2005. Two years later, the 2007 season turned out to be one of Lowell's best, in which he set career bests in hits, RBI, batting average, and played a key role in helping the Red Sox win their second World Series in four years. He was named the 2007 World Series Most Valuable Player (MVP); and

WHEREAS, Lowell's autobiography, *Deep Drive: A Long Journey to Finding the Champion Within*, published in 2008, details his recovery from cancer and his rise to World Series champion; and

WHEREAS, on October 2, 2010, the Boston Red Sox honored Mr. Lowell with an on-field ceremony as he would go on to retire after the 2010 Major League Baseball season was completed; and

WHEREAS, Mike Lowell now works as an analyst on the MLB Network, appearing on "MLB Tonight."

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, approve Resolution No. 20-001 of The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, recognizing Mike Lowell.
A copy of this resolution is placed in the permanent records of this Board.

Presented this fifteenth day of January, A. D. 2020

THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA

CHAIR

ATTEST:

Secretary