

Ms. Lubby Navarro, Board Member

SUBJECT: SCHOOL BOARD ENDORSEMENT OF THE WHITE HOUSE "BE BEST" CHILDREN'S WELL- BEING INITIATIVE

COMMITTEE: FISCAL ACCOUNTABILITY & GOVERNMENT RELATIONS

LINK TO STRATEGIC BLUEPRINT: INFORMED, ENGAGED AND EMPOWERED STAKEHOLDERS

On May 7, 2018, the First Lady of the United States of America, Ms. Melania Trump, launched the BE BEST awareness initiative and the President of the United States of America signed a proclamation calling May 7, 2018 "BE BEST Day". In today's fast-paced and ever-connected world, the First Lady expressed concerns about children being less prepared to express or manage their emotions and oftentimes turning to forums of destructive or addictive behavior, such as bullying, drug addiction or even suicide. Therefore, the initiative is focused on educating children about the importance of all aspects of their wellbeing including social, emotional, and physical health through three pillars: wellbeing, social media use, and opioid abuse.

First, through the wellbeing pillar, BE BEST will focus on highlighting ideas and programs from across the nation that emphasize social emotional learning, lessons about respecting others, inclusion, and being kind. This is done in an effort for other schools or community groups to be inspired to replace or replicate their programs and take steps to improve the wellbeing of our children.

Additionally, through the social media use pillar, the initiative will educate and remind children while using their voices, whether verbally or online, to choose their words wisely and speak with respect and compassion. The campaign will take preventative measures against bullying or shaming by teaching students to use social media as a platform for inclusion and to help others.

Moreover, BE BEST will bring attention to programs such as Lily's Place, the nation's first nonprofit infant recovery center, in order to encourage conversation and replication through the opioid abuse pillar. Furthermore, the First Lady visited the Cincinnati Children's Hospital in Ohio and was briefed on the devastating effects that opioids are having on children, and their important research on neonatal abstinence syndrome in order to more adequately work with children who are fighting drug addiction.

The BE BEST initiative is calling on the support of communities across the nation to help guide, support and encourage all children to be the best that they can be.

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

**ACTION PROPOSED BY
LUBBY NAVARRO:**

That The School Board of Miami Dade County, Florida Endorse
The White House BE BEST Children's Well-Being Initiative.