

Ms. Lubby Navarro, Board Member

SUBJECT: REQUEST APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION NO. 18-043 OF THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA, RECOGNIZING MS. MARIA CECILIA CRUZ, PRINCIPAL OF WILLIAM LEHMAN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

COMMITTEE: FISCAL ACCOUNTABILITY & GOVERNMENT RELATIONS

LINK TO STRATEGIC BLUEPRINT: INFORMED, ENGAGED AND EMPOWERED STAKEHOLDERS

Ms. Maria Cecilia Cruz began her career with Miami-Dade County Public Schools (M-DCPS) in 1981 as an educator at Silver Bluff Elementary School. For over 36 years, Ms. Cruz has demonstrated extraordinary leadership and dedication to M-DCPS by assuming various roles throughout her career, such as: educator, district educational specialist, district coordinator, assistant principal and principal. Ms. Cruz embodies the mission, vision and values of education through a relentless effort to promote a quality educational program that builds the whole child, home-school partnerships and a healthy environment for our students.

For over 20 years, Ms. Cruz has been the principal at William Lehman Elementary School and has accumulated various accolades. Most notably, in 2001, Ms. Cruz was selected as Principal of the Year at the annual Dade Association of School Administrators event. Additionally, Ms. Cruz is the recipient of the Miami-Dade Police Department Kendall District Award for her appreciation for outstanding support of Law Enforcement.

Furthermore, under her tenure, William Lehman Elementary School is the recipient of the Challenge Grants Collaborative Curriculum Project Award, the Florida A+ Plan School Award, the Florida School Recognition Program Award, the Golden Volunteer Award, and is the National United Way Champion for nine consecutive years. Moreover, William Lehman Elementary School has been an A+ rated school for the past 17 years and has received the Five Star School Award for outstanding community involvement for the past five years.

In addition, Ms. Cruz initiated the incredible Drama Factory event, a culminating performance where students put on a yearly outstanding show where family togetherness and school traditions are passed on to new generations. The Drama Factory, with the assistance of the PTA and school stakeholders, has garnered the attention of the local media and has cultivated an entertaining and moving experience that is an unforgettable memory for the performers and audience alike.

Ms. Cruz, has created a strong partnership with the PTA, staff, students and parents at William Lehman Elementary School and has enabled the school to successfully reach its highest potential by implementing a culture of pursuing excellence through academic learning, creative talents, self-confidence, family involvement and peace.

Ms. Maria Cecilia Cruz is to be commended for her leadership and dedication to her students, faculty and peers at Miami-Dade County Public Schools since 1981.

**ACTION PROPOSED BY
LUBBY NAVARRO:**

That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, approve Resolution No. 18-043 of The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, recognizing Ms. Maria Cecilia Cruz, Principal of William Lehman Elementary School.

**Replacement
B-7**

RESOLUTION NO. 18-043
THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA,
RECOGNIZING MS. MARIA CECILIA CRUZ,
PRINCIPAL OF WILLIAM LEHMAN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

WHEREAS, Ms. Maria Cecilia Cruz began her career with Miami-Dade County Public Schools (M-DCPS) in 1981 as an educator at Silver Bluff Elementary School. For over 36 years, Ms. Cruz has demonstrated extraordinary leadership and dedication to M-DCPS by assuming various roles throughout her career, such as: educator, district educational specialist, district coordinator, assistant principal and principal; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Cruz embodies the mission, vision and values of education through a relentless effort to promote a quality educational program that builds the whole child, home-school partnerships and a healthy environment for our students; and

WHEREAS, for over 20 years, Ms. Cruz has been the principal at William Lehman Elementary School and has accumulated various accolades. Most notably, in 2001, Ms. Cruz was selected as Principal of the Year at the annual Dade Association of School Administrators event. Additionally, Ms. Cruz is the recipient of the Miami-Dade Police Department Kendall District Award for her appreciation for outstanding support of Law Enforcement; and

WHEREAS, furthermore, under her tenure, William Lehman Elementary School is the recipient of the Challenge Grants Collaborative Curriculum Project Award, the Florida A+ Plan School Award, the Florida School Recognition Program Award, the Golden Volunteer Award, and are the National United Way Champions for nine consecutive years. Moreover, William Lehman Elementary School has been an A+ rated school for the past 17 years and has received the Five Star School Award for outstanding community involvement for the past five years; and

WHEREAS, in addition, Ms. Cruz initiated the incredible Drama Factory event, a culminating performance where students put on a yearly outstanding show where family togetherness and school traditions are passed on to new generations. The Drama Factory, with the assistance of the PTA and school stakeholders, has garnered the attention of the local media and has cultivated an entertaining and moving experience that is an "unforgettable" memory for the performers and audience alike; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Cruz, has created a strong partnership with the PTA, staff, students and parents at William Lehman Elementary School and has enabled the school to successfully reach its highest potential by implementing a culture of pursuing excellence through academic learning, creative talents, self-confidence, family involvement and peace; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Maria Cecilia Cruz is to be commended for her leadership and dedication to her students, faculty and peers at Miami-Dade County Public Schools since 1981.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, approve Resolution No. 18-043 of The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, recognizing Ms. Maria Cecilia Cruz, Principal of William Lehman Elementary School.

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

Presented this twentieth day of June, A.D. 2018

THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA

CHAIR

ATTEST:

Secretary