

Office of School Board Members
Board Meeting of May 16, 2001

May 9, 2001

Mr. Demetrio Pérez, Jr., M.S., Member

SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION NO. 01-27 OF THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA, AT THE REQUEST OF SCHOOL BOARD MEMBER DEMETRIO PÉREZ, JR., M.S., COMMEMORATING MAY 20TH AS CUBAN INDEPENDENCE DAY

After 30 years of wars against Spain and a brief period of occupation by the United States, the Republic of Cuba was established on May 20, 1902. The long-awaited event offered hope to the Cuban people, who for years had sacrificed their sons in pursuit of freedom.

From 1902 to 1958 Cuba achieved significant social and economic progress. In the early 1950s, Cuban workers were the third best-paid in the world. Moreover, their government offered them substantial legal protection. Free medical care was available for the poor, and all its citizens had access to free prenatal and maternity care in an advanced system of health-maintenance organizations. An extensive, free education system was offered from kindergarten through graduate school.

The tragic decline of Cuba under Castro's tyranny is well-documented. Today Cuba's standard of living ranks among the lowest in the Western Hemisphere. Moreover, Cuba recently was condemned by the United Nations for violating human rights.

The Greater Miami community and Miami-Dade County Public Schools have deep social and economic roots in Cuban history. Many of our 2.2 million residents are of Cuban origin, and most of their children attend the public schools. Presently 23,675 of our students were born in Cuba.

Someday Cuba will once again be a free nation, and its economic health will return with its freedom. Until that day, the diaspora of displaced Cubans asks that the free people of the world join them in observing May 20th as Cuban Independence Day.

**ACTION PROPOSED BY
DEMETRIO PÉREZ, JR., M.S.:**

That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, approve Resolution No. 01-27 of The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, at the request of School Board Member Demetrio Pérez, Jr., M.S., commemorating May 20th as Cuban Independence Day.

DP:bd

**REPLACEMENT
B-13**

**RESOLUTION NO. 01-27
OF THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA,
AT THE REQUEST OF MR. DEMETRIO PÉREZ, JR., M.S.,
SCHOOL BOARD MEMBER, COMMEMORATING MAY 20TH AS
CUBAN INDEPENDENCE DAY**

WHEREAS, after 30 years of wars against Spain and a period of occupation by the United States, Cuba was declared a free and independent nation on May 20, 1902; and

WHEREAS, as early as 1958 the Cuban people enjoyed legal protection for workers, a system of free medical care for the poor and for pregnant women, and free public education from kindergarten through graduate school; and

WHEREAS, Greater Miami has deep social and economic roots in Cuban history, and many of its leading citizens and elected officials were born in Cuba or are of Cuban origin; and

WHEREAS, 23,675 students in Miami-Dade County Public Schools were born in Cuba, and many thousands of others are of Cuban origin; and

WHEREAS, until Cuban once again is a free nation, the Cuban diaspora asks that the free people of the world join them in observing May 20th as Cuban Independence Day;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, approve Resolution No. 01-27 of The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, at the request of School Board Member Demetrio Pérez, Jr., M.S., commemorating May 20th as Cuban Independence Day.

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

Presented this sixteenth day of May, A. D. 2001

THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA

CHAIR

Attest:

Secretary