

Mr. Frank J. Cobo, Member

**SUBJECT:           REQUEST APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION NO. 03-30 OF THE  
SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA,  
ENDORING MAY 2003 AS SCHOOL VOLUNTEER MONTH, WITH  
THE THEME, "VOLUNTEERS ARE A WORK OF HEART"**

**COMMITTEE:       FACILITIES MANAGEMENT**

School volunteerism and civic responsibility have a long and rich tradition in Miami-Dade County Public Schools. The school system's school volunteer program, which began in 1972, is one of the oldest, and more tradition-rich initiatives in this county. Former Governor and current Senator, Bob Graham and his wife Adele, were one of the instrumental forces in taking what we learned locally, to a statewide initiative to establish school volunteer programs in all counties in the state.

The first official volunteer was a business person who worked for then, Eastern Airlines. Mr. Frank Thompson, who has since retired to Palm Beach, volunteered to teach math in schools in Miami Springs and Hialeah. Over the 31 years, organizers estimate over 21 million hours of service have been given to our students. Based on number values today, that is over \$ 315 million dollars worth of service to our school system.

School volunteers are needed more than ever today. With tight budgets, hurried schedules, and life in a large community, opportunities for more one-on-one role models are essential to the emotional and social growth of our students. Likewise, volunteer support in decreasing budgets might be the difference between success and failure. We must renew our spirit of volunteerism in the school system by continuing to encourage and welcome volunteers, while continuing to ensure the well being of our students.

**ACTION PROPOSED BY**

**MR. FRANK J. COBO:** That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida approve Resolution No. 03-30 of The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida endorsing May 2003 as School Volunteer Month to be celebrated in all of Miami-Dade County's public schools.