

Dr. Lawrence Feldman, Board Member

**SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION NO. 09-51 OF THE
 SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA,
 ENDORING APRIL 30, 2009 AS NATIONAL SPANK-OUT DAY.**

**COMMITTEE: INSTRUCTIONAL EXCELLENCE AND COMMUNITY
 ENGAGEMENT**

**LINK TO DISTRICT
STRATEGIC PLAN: IMPROVE SAFETY AND THE SCHOOL ENVIRONMENT**

The Florida Coalition to Abolish Corporal Punishment in Schools, led by Ms. Shaloma Shawmut-Lessner, advocates the use of alternative discipline and applauds the efforts of Miami Dade County Public Schools to discipline students without the use of corporal punishment. National Spank-Out Day draws attention to state-wide figures indicating a drastic decrease in the use of corporal punishment over the past fifteen years.

In 1989, seven districts, Miami-Dade among them, led the movement to cease the use of corporal punishment as a means of disciplining students. With support from the National and State PTA-PTSA, who strongly favor the abolishment of this practice, the use of corporal punishment has seen a 78% reduction over the past fifteen years. In the 1991-92 school year, 24, 198 instances of corporal punishment were administered state-wide, compared to 5,245 incidences during the 2006-07 school year. In the last released data, 38 of the 67 counties did not administer corporal punishment in the 2006-07 school year.

The Florida Coalition to Abolish Corporal Punishment in Schools and Ms. Shaloma Shawmut-Lessner are to be commended for their efforts to encourage and educate school districts and schools to use alternate forms of discipline. Along with the American Academy of Pediatrics, the American Medical Association, the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, the National Education Association, and the National Psychologists Association who have passed resolutions calling for a ban on corporal punishments in schools, Miami Dade County Public Schools proudly distinguishes itself as one of the first counties in the state to ban corporal punishment.

**ACTION PROPOSED BY
DR. LAWRENCE FELDMAN:**

That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, approve Resolution No. 09-51 of The School Board of Miami Dade County, Florida recognizing April 30, 2009 as National Spank-Out Day.

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**RESOLUTION NO. 09-51
OF THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA, RECOGNIZING
APRIL 30, 2009 AS NATIONAL SPANK-OUT DAY**

WHEREAS, The Florida Coalition to Abolish Corporal Punishment in Schools, led by Ms. Shaloma Shawmut-Lessner, advocates the use of alternative discipline and applauds the efforts of Miami-Dade County Public Schools to discipline students without the use of corporal punishment; and

WHEREAS, in 1989, seven districts, Miami-Dade among them, led the movement to cease the use of corporal punishment as a means of disciplining students; and

WHEREAS, corporal punishment has seen a 78% reduction over the past fifteen years, and 38 of the 67 Florida counties did not administer corporal punishment during the 2006-07 school year; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Shawmut-Lessner, through her work and organization has modeled experiences centered around service and advocacy for people from all walks of life and all corners of the world; and

WHEREAS, hundreds of organizations in the U.S. and other countries observe April 30th, Spank-Out Day, by educating schools and communities about alternatives to corporal punishment.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, approve Resolution 09-51 of The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, recognizing April 30, 2009 as National Spank-Out Day.

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

Presented this twenty-second day of April, A.D. 2009

THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA

CHAIR

ATTEST:

Secretary