Office of School Board Members Board Meeting of June 17, 2009

Dr. Wilbert "Tee" Holloway, Board Member

SUBJECT:

REQUEST FOR APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION NO. 09-80 OF THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA, ENDORSING JUNE 2009 AS

VISION RESEARCH MONTH

COMMITTEE:

SCHOOL SUPPORT ACCOUNTABILITY

LINK TO DISTRICT

STRATEGIC PLAN:

INCREASE STUDENT EXPOSURE AND UNDERSTANDING OF GLOBAL ISSUES AND

ECONOMY

Prevent Blindness America, the nation's leading volunteer eye health and safety organization, has designated the month of June as Vision Research Month. Founded in 1908, Prevent Blindness America is dedicated to preventing blindness and to preserving sight through research, education, advocacy, certified vision screening and training, and community and patient service programs. Vision Research Month seeks to recognize the accomplishments of vision research and the urgent need for future studies.

According to the Vision Problems in the U.S. report, there are approximately 3.4 million Americans age 40 and older who are blind or visually impaired - a number expected to double in the next three decades. There are an estimated 20.5 million Americans age 40 and older with cataract; 5.3 million age 18 and older with diabetic retinopathy; 2.2 million age 40 and older with glaucoma, and 1.6 million age 50 and older with the late stages of age-related macular degeneration.

Vision loss affects a person's mobility, independence, and quality of life. A new report released in 2007 estimates that the total costs associated with adult vision problems in the U.S. is \$51.4 billion. Research is necessary to obtain a better understanding of vision disorders so that cost-effective treatments and cures can be found.

It is important for children to have their eyes checked at regular intervals. The University of Miami Pediatric Mobile Clinic provides quality healthcare for children without insurance at no charge, including screenings for vision impairments.

ACTION PROPOSED BY Dr. WILBERT "TEE" HOLLOWAY:

That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, approve Resolution No. 09-80 of The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, endorsing June 2009 as Vision Research Month.

RESOLUTION NO. 09-80 OF THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA, ENDORSING JUNE 2009 AS VISION RESEARCH MONTH

WHEREAS, Prevent Blindness America, the nation's leading volunteer eye health and safety organization, is dedicated to preventing blindness and to preserving sight through research, education, advocacy, certified vision screening and training, and community and patient service programs; and

WHEREAS, Prevent Blindness America has designated the month of June as Vision Research Month; and

WHEREAS, Vision Research Month seeks to recognize the accomplishments of vision research and the urgent need for future studies to obtain a better understanding of vision disorders; and

WHEREAS, vision loss affects a person's mobility, independence, and quality of life; and

WHEREAS, given the importance of children having their eyes checked at regular intervals, the University of Miami Pediatric Mobile Clinic provides quality healthcare for children without insurance at no charge, including screenings for vision impairments;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, approve Resolution No. 09-80 of The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, endorsing June 2009 as Vision Research Month.

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

Presented this seventeenth day of June, A.D. 2009

THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA

	CHAIR	
ATTEST:		
Secretary	_	