

Ms. Perla Tabares Hantman, Board Member

SUBJECT: REQUEST APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION NO. 09-77 OF THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA, PROMOTING STUDENT PEDESTRIAN SAFETY BY ENDORSING THE PARTICIPATION OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS IN THE "WALK OUR CHILDREN TO SCHOOL DAY" PROGRAM AND IMPLEMENTING THE "WALKSAFE" PEDESTRIAN SAFETY PROGRAM CURRICULUM DURING THE WEEK OF THE EVENT

COMMITTEE: INNOVATION, EFFICIENCY AND GOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS

LINK TO DISTRICT

STRATEGIC PLAN: IMPROVED SAFETY THROUGHOUT THE DISTRICT BY IMPLEMENTING PREVENTATIVE MEASURES AND EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMMING

The 13th Annual International "Walk Our Children to School Day," planned for Wednesday, October 7, 2009, promotes pedestrian safety education and awareness for the benefit of students who walk to school every day. The nationwide observance is designed to promote awareness about pedestrian safety among students, parents, and schools. The program increases the awareness of safe walking skills, safe routes to school for students and parents as well as walking as an exercise that promotes good health and physical fitness. In addition, it helps the environment by reducing school-related traffic and pollution and reinforces the importance of reducing traffic speed and obeying the school speed zone limits.

The Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) and the Bicycle Pedestrian Advisory Committee have endorsed "Walk Our Children to School Day", which is sponsored nationwide by the National SAFE KIDS Coalition. According to the MPO, 166 children under the age of 14 were injured and four children were killed in 2007, as a direct result of pedestrian accidents in Miami-Dade County. These numbers represent a decrease in injuries as compared to 2006.

In conjunction with this program, it is recommended that the "WalkSafe" pedestrian safety program curriculum be implemented to coincide with the "Walk Our Children to School Day" event. "WalkSafe" was developed and implemented by the Ryder Trauma Center at the University of Miami Miller School of Medicine/Jackson Memorial Medical Center to reduce pediatric pedestrian injuries and fatalities. Both programs are of no cost to the District. All School Board members, District staff, school administrators and teachers are encouraged to participate in these events.

ACTION PROPOSED BY

MS. PERLA TABARES HANTMAN: That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, approve Resolution No. 09-77 of the School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, promoting student pedestrian safety by endorsing the participation of Miami-Dade County Public Schools in the "Walk Our Children to School Day" program and implementing the "WalkSafe" pedestrian safety program curriculum during the week of the event.

**RESOLUTION NO. 09-77
OF THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA,
PROMOTING STUDENT PEDESTRIAN SAFETY BY ENDORSING THE
PARTICIPATION OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS IN THE
“WALK OUR CHILDREN TO SCHOOL DAY” PROGRAM AND IMPLEMENTING
THE “WALKSAFE” PEDESTRIAN SAFETY PROGRAM CURRICULUM DURING
THE WEEK OF THE EVENT**

WHEREAS, The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, promotes and encourages student pedestrian safety in all Miami-Dade County Public Schools; and

WHEREAS, the international “Walk Our Children to School Day” program, which will be observed on October 7, 2009, increases the awareness of safe walking skills and safe routes to school for students and parents; and

WHEREAS, the program reinforces the importance of reducing traffic speed and obeying school speed zone limits; and

WHEREAS, “Walk Our Children to School Day” helps the environment by reducing school-related traffic and pollution; and

WHEREAS, the program promotes walking as an exercise for good health and physical fitness;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, approves Resolution No. 09-77 of The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, promoting student pedestrian safety by endorsing the participation of Miami-Dade County Public Schools in the “Walk Our Children to School Day” program and implementing the “WalkSafe” pedestrian safety program curriculum during the week of the event.

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