

Dr. Martin Karp, Board Member

**SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION NO. 09-120 OF THE
 SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA,
 RECOGNIZING DANIEL FERGUSON FOR HIS ACCOMPLISHMENTS**

COMMITTEE: INSTRUCTIONAL EXCELLENCE AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

**LINK TO DISTRICT
STRATEGIC PLAN: ENGAGE STAKEHOLDERS ON DISTRICT INITIATIVES AND
 ACTIVITIES**

Daniel Ferguson at an early age was diagnosed with autism. Through the nurturing of caring educators, Daniel developed a passion for music and was able to excel in music even with autism. He is the first student with autism to graduate with fine arts degree from Florida Memorial University. Music is Daniel Ferguson's life, and to watch him play is simply mesmerizing. The versatile and dynamic flautist captivates his audience with his infectious personality and his compassion and love for people. An award-winning musician, he has captured first place in both county and state competitions.

Daniel's talent has been displayed in various charitable venues over the years, including the Annual Nar-Walkathon in Key Biscayne benefiting children with autism, the University of Miami Mailman Center, the Parent-to-Parent Organization, the Police Benevolent Association, and Veteran Hospital. In 2002 he made a guest appearance at Books and Books in Coral Gables with Clyde Stubblefield, percussionist for the late James Brown, accompanied by Arthur Barron and Mike Gerber.

Daniel's experience has varied from playing with Latin Grammy Winner Nestor Torres in 2002 at Gulfstream Race Track, to being lead flautist in Florida Memorial's President's Jazz Band at Melton Mustafa's Annual Jazz Festival, to performing for the N.A.A.C.P. Awards Ceremony, and performing at the Virginia Key Beach grand opening of the Black Archives for Black History Month. He has played with Dr. Alfred Pinkston and the President's Jazz Band at the Florida State Capitol in Tallahassee, at the grand opening for the Lou Rawls Performing Arts Center, and for the city of Miami Gardens' Emancipation Breakfast. His most recent musical endeavor was playing the key signature song 'Over the Rainbow' for Holtz Childrens' Hospital Neonatal Center, and the song will be featured on the hospital's website.

Daniel is a proud role model for students with disabilities throughout South Florida and his passion for playing the flute helps him spread his message that there is light at the end of the tunnel for people with disabilities.

**ACTION PROPOSED BY
DR. MARTIN KARP:**

That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, approve Resolution No. 09-120 of The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, recognizing Daniel Ferguson for his accomplishments.

**REQUEST FOR APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION NO. 09-120 OF THE SCHOOL
BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA, RECOGNIZING DANIEL FERGUSON
FOR HIS ACCOMPLISHMENTS**

WHEREAS, Daniel Ferguson is the first student with autism to graduate from Florida Memorial University with a fine arts degree; and

WHEREAS, Music is Daniel Ferguson's passion and as an award-winning musician, capturing first place in both county and state competitions; and

WHEREAS, Daniel's passion for music was nurtured by caring educators who directed him throughout his early musical and educational career; and

WHEREAS, Daniel's talent has been displayed in various charitable venues over the years, including the Annual Nar-Walkathon in Key Biscayne benefiting children with autism, the University of Miami Mailman Center, the Parent-to-Parent Organization, the Police Benevolent Association, and Veteran Hospital; and

WHEREAS, Daniel Ferguson is a proud role model for students with disabilities throughout South Florida and his passion for playing the flute helps him spread his message that there is light at the end of the tunnel for people with disabilities.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, approve Resolution 09-120 of The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, recognizing Daniel Ferguson for his accomplishments.

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

Presented this fourteen day of October, A.D. 2009

THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA

CHAIR

ATTEST:

Secretary