

Ms. Perla Tabares Hantman, Chair

SUBJECT: COMMEMORATION OF THE 109TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE INDEPENDENCE OF CUBA FROM SPAIN – MAY 20, 2011

COMMITTEE: INNOVATION, EFFICIENCY AND GOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS

LINK TO STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK: STUDENT, PARENT, AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

May 20, 1902 marked the end of Cuba's fight for independence, which was a long and courageous battle against Spain as well as a short occupation by the United States after the Spanish-American War in 1898. Cuban patriots including Carlos Manuel de Céspedes, Calixto García, Maximo Gómez, Antonio Maceo, José Martí and Tomás Estrada Palma fought for independence throughout the late 1800s.

Renowned activist, poet and writer José Martí organized the Cuban Revolutionary Party. Known as the voice of the revolution, Martí was committed to equality for all Cuban people and the pursuit of democracy. In partnership with other patriots, he gained support in Cuba as well as the United States, Europe and throughout Latin America. Martí paid the ultimate price for freedom with his life on May 19, 1895 during a battle against Spanish troops in Dos Rios, Cuba. His loss re-invigorated the fight for freedom and inspired nationalism across the island nation.

In celebration of the 109th anniversary of the independence of Cuba from Spain, it is important to acknowledge the strong historical ties between Cuba and the United States. The U.S. assisted Cuban nationals in their efforts to become a prosperous and independent nation and contributed to Cuba's economic recovery. For more than 50 years, the United States has offered support and refuge to Cuban patriots.

Miami-Dade County Public Schools supports a global education with an emphasis on world cultures and history. The school district has a rich and long legacy of supporting the Cuban-American community. Through innovative programs and a comprehensive curriculum, the school district is able to provide students and community members the opportunity to achieve their goals of receiving an education and professional training.

As the 109th anniversary of Cuban independence from Spain approaches, Miami-Dade County Public Schools recognizes the many achievements and contributions of the Cuban-American community and offers the best wishes for democracy and liberty for the people of Cuba.

**ACTION PROPOSED BY CHAIR
PERLA TABARES HANTMAN:**

That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, join the Cuban-American community as it commemorates May 20, 2011 as the 109th anniversary of the independence of Cuba from Spain.