

Ms. Perla Tabares Hantman, Chair

**SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION NO. 11-026
OF THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY,
FLORIDA, RECOGNIZING AND CONGRATULATING THE
WINNER OF THE NBC MIAMI HOMEROOM REFORMERS
STUDENT ESSAY CONTEST**

**COMMITTEE: INNOVATION, EFFICIENCY AND GOVERNMENTAL
RELATIONS**

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

At the October 13, 2010 meeting, I proffered an item seeking the Board's endorsement of the NBC Miami Homeroom Reformers Student Essay Contest. The contest, sponsored through the NBC News Education Nation Initiative, offered an opportunity for students over the age of 13, who live in South Florida, to submit innovative, creative and compelling ideas to address education reform in their schools. The school highlighted in the winning essay will receive a \$5,000 grant to implement the educational improvements drafted by the student author.

The contest was very competitive, with 256 entries received from motivated students looking to make a positive difference in their schools. Although each student applicant expressed good ideas, one student stood out among the others with a very inspirational and moving essay.

The winner of the Homeroom Reformers Student Essay Contest is Michael Orr from Here's Help, a Miami-Dade County Public Schools Educational Alternative Outreach Program. The school serves students who are outside the mainstream of the traditional school program, providing strategies tailored to the needs of children at risk. Their academic program emphasizes improving student achievement, attendance, graduation rate and basic skills. Mr. Orr wishes to reform the school by retrofitting his homeroom with new desks, air conditioning, chalkboards, and computers with high speed internet access. Mr. Orr has set an example for the school's current and future students, who are looking for a second chance to succeed. With this award, the students at Here's Help are one step closer.

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

That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, approve Resolution No. 11-026 of The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, recognizing and congratulating Michael Orr, the winner of the NBC Miami Homeroom Reformers Student Essay Contest.

**RESOLUTION NO. 11-026
OF THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA,
RECOGNIZING AND CONGRATULATING MICHAEL ORR, WINNER OF THE NBC MIAMI
HOMEROOM REFORMERS STUDENT ESSAY CONTEST**

WHEREAS, at its October 13, 2010 meeting the School Board endorsed the NBC Miami Homeroom Reformers Student Essay Contest, proffered by School Board Chair Perla Tabares Hantman; and

WHEREAS, the contest sponsored through the NBC News Education Nation Initiative seeks to engage the public through thoughtful dialogue, in pursuit of the shared goal of providing every American with an opportunity to pursue the best education in the world; and

WHEREAS, at the classroom level, the Essay Contest offered an opportunity for students over the age of 13 who live in South Florida, to submit innovative, creative and compelling ideas to address education reform in their schools; and

WHEREAS, the school highlighted in the winning essay will receive a \$5,000 grant to implement the educational improvements drafted by the student author; and

WHEREAS, Miami-Dade County Public Schools, in collaboration with NBC Miami, is pleased to announce Michael Orr from Here's Help, a Miami-Dade County Public School Educational Alternative Outreach Program, as the winner of the Essay Contest. The school serves students who are outside the mainstream of the traditional school program, providing strategies tailored to the needs of children at risk. Their academic program emphasizes improving student achievement, attendance, graduation rate and basic skills. Mr. Orr wishes to reform the school by retrofitting his homeroom with new desks, air conditioning, chalkboards, and computers with high speed internet access. Mr. Orr has set an example for the school's current and future students, who are looking for a second chance to succeed. With this award, the students at Here's Help are one step closer.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, approve Resolution No. 11-026 of The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, recognizing and congratulating Mr. Michael Orr from Here's Help, as the winner of the NBC Miami Homeroom Reformers Student Essay Contest.

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

Presented this ninth day of March, A.D. 2011

THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA

CHAIR

ATTEST:

Secretary