

Dr. Martin Karp, Board Member

**SUBJECT:                   REQUEST FOR APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION NO. 11-046  
OF THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY,  
FLORIDA RECOGNIZING MAY 1-8, 2011 AS DAYS OF  
REMEMBRANCE OF THE VICTIMS OF THE HOLOCAUST TO  
BE OBSERVED IN ALL OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY'S PUBLIC  
SCHOOLS**

**COMMITTEE:               INSTRUCTIONAL   EXCELLENCE    AND   COMMUNITY  
ENGAGEMENT**

**LINK TO STRATEGIC  
FRAMEWORK:               EDUCATION**

The United States Congress established the Days of Remembrance as our nation's annual commemoration of the Holocaust and created the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum as a permanent living memorial to the victims. This year, Days of Remembrance take place from May 1 through May 8, 2011. In commemoration of the 66<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the liberation of Nazi concentration camps, the Museum has designated "Justice and Accountability in the Face of Genocide: What Have We Learned?" as the theme for the 2011 observance.

Each year, Miami-Dade County Public Schools emphasizes Holocaust education in an effort to teach children tolerance so that such crimes are not repeated against any group. Recently, training was conducted for over 75 teachers at the University of Miami and a Holocaust Remembrance Week was held in cooperation with the Holocaust Memorial in Miami Beach.

On May 11, 2011, a multimedia interactive program, "Living Voices - Anne Frank," will be presented at Miami Beach Senior High School for students and staff. From June 13-17, 2011, the 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Summer Holocaust Teacher Institute sponsored by the University of Miami School of Education will be held for the District's teachers with Dr. Miriam Klein Kassenoff, Curriculum Support Specialist, serving as the lead instructor.

Additionally, the Greater Miami Jewish Federation/Central Agency for Jewish Education is proposing a "March of the Living" program for teachers in the District. This program will permit teachers to learn about the Nazi Holocaust through a summer travel experience to Poland. Also, schools throughout the District receive an updated curriculum packet from the Division of Social Sciences and Life Skills and Holocaust survivors visit schools on request throughout April and May.

The Holocaust demonstrates one of the greatest lessons about individual responsibility - that each of us has the choice to act or not to act, and that there are consequences to our decisions.

The evidence of these heinous crimes against humanity demonstrates that the Holocaust was not inevitable; it happened because ordinary people became accomplices to the process of targeting groups of people and eventually mass murder. Whether through sheer indifference or motivated by career advancement, peer approval, or anti-Semitic prejudice, in the long span between words of hate and the machinery of death at camps like Auschwitz, many had the opportunity to affect the outcome. Neighbors and friends, doctors and judges, businessman and clergy, educators and policemen and, ultimately even other governments chose not to act. Others including government workers and professionals enabled and assisted in the implementation of policies and practices targeting Jews and others.

Remembrance obligates us not only to memorialize those who were killed, but also to reflect on what could have been done to save them. Those who survived tell us that as many faced their horrific deaths their last words were "Remember us. Tell our story."

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

That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, approve Resolution No. 11-046, recognizing May 1-8, 2011 as Days of Remembrance of the Victims of the Holocaust to be observed in all of Miami-Dade County's public schools.

**RESOLUTION NO. 11-046**  
**OF THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA RECOGNIZING MAY1-8,**  
**2011 AS DAYS OF REMEMBRANCE OF THE VICTIMS OF THE HOLOCAUST TO BE**  
**OBSERVED IN ALL OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY'S PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

**WHEREAS**, the United States Congress established the Days of Remembrance as our nation's annual commemoration of the Holocaust and created the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum as a permanent living memorial to the victims; and

**WHEREAS**, this year, Days of Remembrance takes place from May 1 through May 8, 2011 and will be observed under the theme "*Justice and Accountability in the Face of Genocide: What Have We Learned?*;" and

**WHEREAS**, each year, Miami-Dade County Public Schools emphasizes Holocaust education in an effort to teach children tolerance so that such crimes are not repeated against any group; and

**WHEREAS**, the Holocaust demonstrates one of the greatest lessons about individual responsibility – that each of us has the choice to act or not to act, and that there are consequences to our decisions; and

**WHEREAS**, remembrance obligates us not only to memorialize those who were killed, but also to reflect on what could have been done to save them. Those who survived tell us that as many faced their horrific deaths their last words were "Remember us. Tell our story;"

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT:**

The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, approve Resolution No. 11-046 of The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida recognizing May 1-8, 2011 as Days of Remembrance of the Victims of the Holocaust to be observed in all of Miami-Dade County's public schools.

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

**Presented this thirteenth day of April, A.D. 2011**

THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA

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CHAIR

ATTEST:

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Secretary