

Office of School Board Members
Board Meeting of May 11, 2011

May 11, 2011

Dr. Dorothy Bendross-Mindingall, Board Member

**SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION 11-067 OF THE
SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA,
COMMEMORATING MAY 18, 2011, AS HAITIAN FLAG DAY**

**COMMITTEE: INSTRUCTIONAL EXCELLENCE AND COMMUNITY
ENGAGEMENT**

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

May 18, 1803, marks a pivotal moment in the history of Haiti. On that day in Arcahaie, a town located outside Port-au-Prince, the Haitian flag was created. Since that day, May 18 has been observed as Haitian Flag Day. It is a major national holiday and is celebrated with much fanfare in Haiti. Haitian Flag Day represents the principles of unity, national pride and liberty.

The Haitian flag is a symbol of independence and has close historical ties to the struggle and freedom of the country and its people. During the 1791 Haitian Revolution against French occupation it was common for leaders to use a piece of cloth as a flag. Toussaint Louverture led his charge with the French colors of blue, white and red. After his capture and the eventual seizure of the flag by the French, a new flag was cobbled together joining the red and blue pieces together next to the white to represent the mulattoes and black fighting the pro-slavery French colonists.

On May 18, 1803, the Haitian flag was created using only the red and blue stripes as well as the palm tree surrounded by the Phrygian cap of liberty, trophies and a banner that reads "Through Unity There is Strength." The flag was sewn by Catherine Flon. Haiti's independence from the French was declared on January 1st the following year. The flag was flown proudly across the nation.

May 18, 2011, is to be observed as Haitian Flag Day in Miami-Dade County Public Schools in recognition of the Haitian's rich history, culture and many contributions to this community.

**ACTION PROPOSED BY
DR. DOROTHY BENDROSS-MINDINGALL:** That The School Board of Miami-Dade
County, Florida, approve Resolution No.
11-067 of The School Board of Miami-
Dade County, Florida, commemorating
May 18, 2011, as Haitian Flag Day.

**Replacement
H-20**

**RESOLUTION NO. 11-067
OF THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA,
COMMEMORATING MAY 18, 2011, AS HAITIAN FLAG DAY**

WHEREAS, May 18, 1803, marks a pivotal moment in the history of Haiti. On that day in Arcahaie, a town located outside Port-au-Prince, the Haitian flag was created. Since that day, May 18 has been observed as Haitian Flag Day; and

WHEREAS, it is a major national holiday and is celebrated with much fanfare in Haiti. Haitian Flag Day represents the principles of unity, national pride and liberty; and

WHEREAS, the Haitian flag is a symbol of independence and has close historical ties to the struggle and freedom of the country and its people. During the 1791 Haitian Revolution against French occupation it was common for leaders to use a piece of cloth as a flag. Toussaint Louverture led his charge with the French colors of blue, white and red; and

WHEREAS, after his capture and the eventual seizure of the flag by the French, a new flag was cobbled together joining the red and blue pieces together next to the white to represent the mulattoes and black fighting the pro-slavery French colonists; and

WHEREAS, on May 18, 1803, the Haitian flag was created using only the red and blue stripes as well as the palm tree surrounded by the Phrygian cap of liberty, trophies and a banner that reads "Through Unity There is Strength;" and

WHEREAS, May 18, 2011, is to be observed as Haitian Flag Day in Miami-Dade County Public Schools in recognition of the Haitian's rich history, culture and many contributions to this community;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, approve Resolution No. 11-067 of The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, commemorating May 18, 2011, as Haitian Flag Day.

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

Presented this eleventh day of May, A.D. 2011

THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA

CHAIR

ATTEST:

Secretary