

Dr. Dorothy Bendross-Mindingall, Board Member

**SUBJECT:** REQUEST FOR APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION 11-097 OF THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA, RECOGNIZING VELMA R. LAWRENCE, FOUNDER AND EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE EMBRACE GIRLS FOUNDATION FOR HER COMMITMENT TO COMMUNITY SERVICE

**COMMITTEE:** INSTRUCTIONAL EXCELLENCE AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

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

Ten years ago, Velma R. Lawrence, a Liberty City native and product of Miami-Dade County Public Schools, founded The Embrace Girls Foundation to help empower elementary school girls in South Florida to reach their potential. Through after-school programs and school activities, the foundation shows girls how to lead healthy and productive lives.

The after-school mentoring program provides homework assistance and other academic support to make girls better students. At the camp, the girls learn about personal hygiene, personal skills, and fitness to help them develop pride in their appearance.

The organization's mission is to serve elementary to early middle school-aged girls, teaching them to be healthy, confident and ambitious young ladies by providing positive social experiences, life skills and character building training with a strong focus on academic tutoring and cultural exposure. Its most recent and impressive milestone includes the organization's 2011 launch of a model program "Embrace Girl Power! All Girl All Power" in Miami Gardens, which has experienced proven and measurable positive outcomes both socially and academically. In fact, results from the 2011 Florida Comprehensive Achievement Test – 10<sup>th</sup> Edition indicate that girls enrolled in the Embrace Girl Power! All Girl All Power After-School Academy passed with proficiency levels of 3 and above in reading and mathematics. Students in first and second grades, who were administered the Stanford Achievement Test – 10<sup>th</sup> Edition all scored 5 or better in the areas of reading and mathematics.

Mrs. Lawrence is to be commended for the passion she demonstrates about the empowerment of young girls and for embracing opportunities that advance their social life and academic excellence.

**ACTION PROPOSED BY  
DR. DOROTHY BENDROSS MINDINGALL:**

That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, approve Resolution No. 11-097 of The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, recognizing Velma R. Lawrence, Founder and Executive Director of The Embrace Girls Foundation for her commitment to community service.

**Replacement  
H-18**

**RESOLUTION NO. 11-097  
OF THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA,  
RECOGNIZING VELMA R. LAWRENCE, FOUNDER AND EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE  
EMBRACE GIRLS FOUNDATION FOR HER COMMITMENT TO COMMUNITY SERVICE**

**WHEREAS**, ten years ago, Velma R. Lawrence, a Liberty City native and product of Miami-Dade County Public Schools, founded The Embrace Girls Foundation to help empower elementary school girls in South Florida to reach their potential; and

**WHEREAS**, through after-school programs and school activities, the foundation shows girls how to lead healthy and productive lives by providing homework assistance and other academic support to make girls better students; and

**WHEREAS**, the organization's mission is to serve elementary to early middle school-aged girls, teaching them to be healthy, confident and ambitious young ladies by providing positive social experiences, life skills and character building training with a strong focus on academic tutoring and cultural exposure; and

**WHEREAS**, its most recent and impressive milestone includes the organization's 2011 launch of a model program "Embrace Girl Power! All Girl All Power" in Miami Gardens, which has experienced proven and measurable positive outcomes both socially and academically; and

**WHEREAS**, results from the 2011 Florida Comprehensive Achievement Test – 10<sup>th</sup> Edition indicate that girls enrolled in the Embrace Girl Power! All Girl All Power After-School Academy passed with proficiency levels of 3 and above in reading and mathematics; and

**WHEREAS**, Mrs. Lawrence is to be commended for the passion she demonstrates about the empowerment of young girls and embracing opportunities that advance their social life and academic excellence;

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

The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, approve Resolution No. 11-097 of The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, recognizing Velma R. Lawrence, Founder and Executive Director of The Embrace Girls Foundation for her commitment to community service.

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

**Presented this third day of August, A.D. 2011**

THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA

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CHAIR

ATTEST:

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Secretary