

Ms. Raquel Regalado, Board Member

**SUBJECT:** REQUEST FOR APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION NO. 12-013 OF THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA, RECOGNIZING MR. JIMMY MORALES AND AUTISM SPEAKS FOR WORKING TOWARD IMPROVING THE FUTURE OF PEOPLE SUFFERING FROM AUTISM SPECTRUM DISORDERS

**COMMITTEE:** INSTRUCTIONAL EXCELLENCE AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

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

Attorney and politician Jimmy Morales has a long history of service to the community. In the fall of 1996, Mr. Morales's daughter Nora was diagnosed with Asperger's syndrome, a mild form of autism. Since then, Mr. Morales and his family have worked extensively to raise awareness about autism – which currently affects one in 110 children (one in 70 boys) and receives less than five percent of the research funding of many less prevalent childhood diseases.

Founded in 2005, *Autism Speaks* has become the nation's largest autism science and advocacy organization, dedicated to funding research into the causes, prevention, treatments and cure for autism, providing families with information, tools and resources, while accelerating national and state autism legislation.

About two years after his daughter was diagnosed with autism, Mr. Morales began working with the predecessor to Autism Speaks – The National Alliance for Autism Research (NAAR). He has participated in the Walk Far for NAAR walkathons and also provided support as county commissioner through 2004.

One year after NAAR's merger into Autism Speaks in 2005, Mr. Morales served as co-chair of the Autism Speaks walks in Miami. Most recently, he became chair of the Miami Chapter of Autism Speaks, which was launched in 2010 with a formal board of directors and support staff. Mr. Morales and his family are known for hosting the Karaoke Challenge for Autism Speaks annually. For the past nine years, they have used music for fundraising toward autism, with last month's event raising over \$15,000.

With autism being the fastest-growing serious developmental disability in the United States, Miami-Dade County Public Schools acknowledges Mr. Jimmy Morales and Autism Speaks for their strong efforts toward bringing a brighter future to all those affected by autism spectrum disorders.

**ACTION PROPOSED BY  
MS. RAQUEL REGALADO:**

That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, approve Resolution No. 12-013 of The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, recognizing Mr. Jimmy Morales and *Autism Speaks* for working toward improving the future of people suffering from autism spectrum disorders.

**Replacement  
H-24**

**RESOLUTION NO. 12-013  
OF THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA,  
RECOGNIZING MR. JIMMY MORALES AND AUTISM SPEAKS FOR  
WORKING TOWARD IMPROVING THE FUTURE OF PEOPLE SUFFERING  
FROM AUTISM SPECTRUM DISORDERS**

**WHEREAS**, attorney and politician Jimmy Morales has a long history of service to the community. In the fall of 1996, Mr. Morales's daughter Nora was diagnosed with Asperger's syndrome, a mild form of autism; and

**WHEREAS**, Mr. Morales and his family have worked extensively to raise awareness about autism – which currently affects one in 110 children (one in 70 boys) and receives less than five percent of the research funding of many less prevalent childhood diseases; and

**WHEREAS**, founded in 2005, *Autism Speaks* has become the nation's largest autism science and advocacy organization, dedicated to funding research into the causes, prevention, treatments and cure for autism, providing families with information, tools and resources, while accelerating national and state autism legislation; and

**WHEREAS**, about two years after his daughter was diagnosed with autism, Mr. Morales began working with the predecessor to Autism Speaks – *The National Alliance for Autism Research (NAAR)* and participated in the Walk Far for NAAR walkathons and also provided support as county commissioner through 2004; and

**WHEREAS**, in 2005, Mr. Morales served as co-chair of the Autism Speaks walks in Miami, and most recently became chair of the Miami Chapter of Autism Speaks, which was launched in 2010 with a formal board of directors and support staff; and

**WHEREAS**, with autism being the fastest-growing serious developmental disability in the United States, Miami-Dade County Public Schools acknowledges Mr. Jimmy Morales and Autism Speaks for their strong efforts toward bringing a brighter future to all those affected by autism spectrum disorders;

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

The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, approve Resolution No. 12-013 of The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, recognizing Mr. Jimmy Morales and Autism Speaks for working toward improving the future of people suffering from autism spectrum disorders.

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

**Presented this eighteenth day of January, A.D. 2012**

THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA

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CHAIR

ATTEST:

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Secretary