

Dr. Lawrence S. Feldman, Vice Chair

**SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION NO. 12-045 OF THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA, RECOGNIZING STEVEN CLAUNCH OF THE SCHOOL FOR ADVANCED STUDIES**

**COMMITTEE: INSTRUCTIONAL EXCELLENCE AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT**

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

Most people who meet Steven Claunch immediately label him, but he quickly makes them change their minds. Born with one hand, eight toes and legs of differing lengths, Steven could have easily chosen to be bitter, but instead, he chose to become *better* and focus on his triumphs.

Steven has an incredible passion for basketball and was chosen "Rookie of the Year" during his freshman year. However, he had to undergo a series of painful surgeries to lengthen his right leg, and was sidelined for over a year. Although devastated about not being able to play, Steven decided to turn that disappointment into determination. If he could not excel on the basketball court, he would conquer in academics and the arts.

This formerly regular student enrolled in the School for Advanced Studies Homestead campus and chose a rigorous curriculum of Advanced Placement (AP) and college courses. The results were amazing. Steven maintained a 4.0 GPA, received 5's on all his AP tests, and earned a perfect score on the reading sections of both the SAT and ACT. Additionally, Steven is a proficient electric bass guitar player and spent hours improving his skills. He plays in a band in his church's youth group.

Thanks to a chance encounter between his parents and Dwyane Wade Sr., the father of his favorite Miami HEAT player, Steven met his idol and also joined *ProPops*, Mr. Wade Sr.'s non-profit organization, as a motivational speaker to speak about how to overcome the most difficult obstacles. Steven also formed his own organization called, "Even Steven Productions" in which he travels to camps, churches and schools to share his speech titled, "*Overcoming Obstacles*."

Not surprisingly, Steven was nominated for a Silver Knight Award in Speech. He also was named one of 10 winners of the 2012 "Orgullo de Nuestra Juventud (Pride in our Youth) award, and has been awarded a Posse scholarship to attend the University of Pennsylvania.

The school board commends this young man for using adversity and hardship as valuable lessons to achieve tremendous growth in academics and the arts.

**ACTION PROPOSED BY**

**DR. LAWRENCE S. FELDMAN:** That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, approve Resolution No. 12-045 of The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, recognizing Steven Claunch of the School for Advanced Studies.

**RESOLUTION NO. 12-045  
OF THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA,  
RECOGNIZING STEVEN CLAUNCH OF THE SCHOOL FOR ADVANCED STUDIES**

**WHEREAS**, most people who meet Steven Claunch immediately label him, but he quickly makes them change their minds. Born with one hand, eight toes and legs of differing lengths, Steven could have easily chosen to be bitter, but instead, he chose to become *better* and focus on his triumphs; and

**WHEREAS**, Steven Claunch has an incredible passion for basketball and was chosen "Rookie of the Year" during his freshman year. However, he had to undergo a series of painful surgeries to lengthen his right leg, and was sidelined for over a year. Although devastated about not being able to play, Steven decided to turn that disappointment into determination. If he could not excel on the basketball court, he would conquer in academics and the arts; and

**WHEREAS**, this formerly regular student enrolled in the School for Advanced Studies Homestead campus and chose a rigorous curriculum of Advanced Placement (AP) and college courses. Steven maintained a 4.0 GPA, received 5's on all his AP tests, and earned a perfect score on the reading sections of both the SAT and ACT; and

**WHEREAS**, Steven Claunch is a proficient electric bass guitar player and spent hours improving his skills. He plays in a band in his church's youth group; and

**WHEREAS**, thanks to a chance encounter between his parents and Dwyane Wade Sr., the father of his favorite Miami HEAT player, Steven met his idol and also joined *ProPops*, Mr. Wade Sr.'s non-profit organization, as a motivational speaker to speak about how to overcome the most difficult obstacles; and

**WHEREAS**, Steven Claunch formed his own organization called, "Even Steven Productions" in which he travels to camps, churches and schools to share his speech titled, "*Overcoming Obstacles*"; and

**WHEREAS**, Steven Claunch was nominated for a Silver Knight Award in Speech. He also was named one of 10 winners of the 2012 "Orgullo de Nuestra Juventud (Pride in our Youth) award, and has been awarded a Posse scholarship to attend the University of Pennsylvania; and

**WHEREAS**, the school board commends this young man for using adversity and hardship as valuable lessons to achieve tremendous growth in academics and the arts;

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

The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, approve Resolution No. 12-045 of The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, recognizing Steven Claunch of the School for Advanced Studies.

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

**Presented this seventh day of March, A.D. 2012**

THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA

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CHAIR

ATTEST:

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Secretary