

Dr. Martin Karp, Board Member

**SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION NO. 12-057
OF THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY,
FLORIDA, RECOGNIZING APRIL 15-22, 2012 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 of the victims of the Holocaust takes place from April 15 through April 22 including the Day of Remembrance known as Yom Hashoah on April 19. The Museum designated "Choosing to Act: Stories of Rescue" as the theme for this year's 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. Training is conducted for teachers at the University of Miami and a Holocaust Remembrance Week is held in cooperation with the Holocaust Memorial in Miami Beach.

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.

From June 11-15, 2012, the 11th Annual Summer Holocaust Teacher Institute sponsored by the University of Miami School of Education and The Florida Holocaust Task Force on Holocaust Education will be held for the District's teachers with Dr. Miriam Klein Kassenoff, Curriculum Support Specialist, serving as the lead instructor.

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 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. 12-057 of The School Board of Miami-Dade County Florida, recognizing April 15-22, 2012 as Days of Remembrance of the Victims of the Holocaust to be observed in all of Miami-Dade County's public schools.

RESOLUTION NO. 12-057
OF THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA, RECOGNIZING
APRIL 15-22, 2012 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 April 15 through April 22, 2012 and will be observed under the theme "Choosing to Act: Stories of Rescue;" 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. 12-057 of The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, recognizing April 15-22, 2012 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 eighteenth day of April, A.D. 2012

THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA

CHAIR

ATTEST:

Secretary