

Mr. Renier Diaz de la Portilla, Board Member

SUBJECT: REQUEST APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION NO. 12-062 OF THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA, ENDORSING THE MARCH OF DIMES FOUNDATION'S 'MARCH FOR BABIES' WALK ON APRIL 28TH, 2012

COMMITTEE: INSTRUCTIONAL EXCELLENCE AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

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

More than a half million babies in the United States - that's 1 in every 8 - are born premature each year; worldwide, the number rises to 13 million. The March of Dimes Foundation (MOD) is working to address this crisis, funding lifesaving research and speaking out for legislation that improves care for mothers and babies.

Just this year, more than 7 million people will join their family, friends and colleagues in 900 communities across the nation to march for premature babies. They will march as part of the MOD's annual 'March for Babies' – the longest-running and most widely recognized walking event in the nation – which has generated more than \$2 billion for the March of Dimes over its 42-year history.

The money raised through 'March for Babies' funds important research and programs that help babies begin healthy lives. Those who walk for this cause provide hope and health to more than 500,000 children who are born too soon each year. Participants also help fund programs that aid mothers in having healthy, full-term pregnancies, and help researchers find answers to problems that threaten babies.

The March of Dimes Foundation will be hosting its Miami-Dade 'March for Babies' walk on April 28, 2012 at Tropical Park.

ACTION PROPOSED BY

MR. RENIER DIAZ DE LA PORTILLA: That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, approve Resolution No. 12-062 of The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, endorsing the March of Dimes Foundation's 'March for Babies' Walk on April 28, 2012, and direct the Superintendent to encourage student and staff participation in this event.

**RESOLUTION NO. 12-062
OF THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA,
ENDORISING THE MARCH OF DIMES FOUNDATION'S 'MARCH FOR BABIES'
WALK ON APRIL 28, 2012**

WHEREAS, over the past thirty years, well into the 21st century, the rate of premature birth in the United States has risen steadily;

WHEREAS, the March of Dimes Foundation's core mission is to help mothers have full-term pregnancies and research the problems that threaten the health of babies in local communities across our country;

WHEREAS, each year, the Foundation organizes 'March for Babies' walks nationwide as one of its signature events to raise awareness and funding for this important cause;

WHEREAS, over the past 42 years 'March for Babies' walks have raised over \$2 billion in support of the organization's mission and premature babies across our community and the nation;

WHEREAS, the March of Dimes Foundation will be hosting its annual 'March for Babies' walk in Miami-Dade on April 28th, 2012 at Tropical Park; and

WHEREAS, beyond our mission to provide a quality education for all children, as a school district, we also strive to ensure that our students are engaged in the community and active in volunteering for worthy causes such as this,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida approve Resolution No. 12-062 of The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, endorsing the March of Dimes Foundation's 'March for Babies' Walk on April 28, 2012.

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