

Dr. Dorothy Bendross-Mindingall, Board Member

**SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION 12-089 OF THE
SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA,
COMMEMORATING MAY 18, 2012, AS HAITIAN FLAG DAY**

**COMMITTEE: INSTRUCTIONAL EXCELLENCE AND COMMUNITY
ENGAGEMENT**

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

On May 18, 1803, the country of Haiti observed an important historical milestone. The date marks the creation of the Haitian flag in Arcahaie, a town located outside Port-au-Prince. In commemoration of that pivotal historical event, May 18 is celebrated as Haitian Flag Day. A major national holiday, it is celebrated with much fanfare in Haiti because of the ideals of unity, patriotism, and freedom the Haitian flag represents.

The deep historical ties to the struggle and liberty of the country and its people have made the Haitian flag a symbol of liberty. Without a recognized universal flag, it was common for leaders to use a piece of cloth as a flag during the 1791 Haitian Revolution against French occupation. The French colors of blue, white and red were the chosen colors of Toussaint Louverture, representing his fight for freedom. Another flag was put together after his capture by the French. The new flag placed the red and blue pieces together next to the white, which symbolized the partnership of blacks and mulattoes battling the pro-slavery French.

The Haitian flag was created on May 18, 1803 by using only the red and blue stripes. It also displays a palm tree surrounded by the Phrygian cap of liberty, trophies as well as a banner that is inscribed with the words "Through Unity There is Strength." Catherine Flon is recognized for sewing the flag. January 1st of the following year marked Haiti's independence from the French. The flag was flown with great pride across the nation.

Miami-Dade County Public Schools will observe May 18, 2012, as Haitian Flag Day in its schools in recognition of the rich culture and history of the Haitian people as well as their many contributions in our community.

ACTION PROPOSED BY

DR. DOROTHY BENDROSS-MINDINGALL: That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, approve Resolution No. 12-089 of The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, commemorating May 18, 2012, as Haitian Flag Day.

**RESOLUTION NO. 12-089
OF THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA,
COMMEMORATING MAY 18, 2012, AS HAITIAN FLAG DAY**

WHEREAS, on May 18, 1803, the country of Haiti observed an important historical milestone. The date marks the creation of the Haitian flag in Arcahaie, a town located outside Port-au-Prince; and

WHEREAS, in commemoration of that pivotal historical event, May 18 is celebrated as Haitian Flag Day. A major national holiday, it is celebrated with much fanfare in Haiti because of the ideals of unity, patriotism, and freedom the Haitian flag represents; and

WHEREAS, the deep historical ties to the struggle and liberty of the country and its people have made the Haitian flag a symbol of liberty. Without a recognized universal flag, it was common for leaders to use a piece of cloth as a flag during the 1791 Haitian Revolution against French occupation; and

WHEREAS, the French colors of blue, white and red were the chosen colors of Toussaint Louverture, representing his fight for freedom. Another flag was put together after his capture by the French. The new flag placed the red and blue pieces together next to the white, which symbolized the partnership of blacks and mulattoes battling the pro-slavery French; and

WHEREAS, the Haitian flag was created on May 18, 1803 by using only the red and blue stripes. It also displays a palm tree surrounded by the Phrygian cap of liberty, trophies as well as a banner that is inscribed with the words "Through Unity There is Strength;" and

WHEREAS, Miami-Dade County Public Schools will observe May 18, 2012, as Haitian Flag Day in its schools in recognition of the rich culture and history of the Haitian people as well as their many contributions in our community;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, approve Resolution No. 12-089 of The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, commemorating May 18, 2012, as Haitian Flag Day.

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

Presented this sixteenth day of May, A.D. 2012

THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA

CHAIR

ATTEST:

Secretary