

Ms. Perla Tabares Hantman, Chair

SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION NO. 12-130 OF THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA, RECOGNIZING THE MIAMI LAKES MIDDLE SCHOOL PROJECT CITIZEN STUDENTS

COMMITTEE: INNOVATION, EFFICIENCY AND GOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS

LINK TO STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK: STUDENT, PARENT AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

The students of the 2011-2012 Miami Lakes Middle School Project Citizen Class developed an award-winning safety project entitled, "Warning! Illegal Passing of School Buses," focusing on the unlawful practice by vehicles of passing school buses that are stopped to allow for students to embark and disembark.

The data collected by various public organizations since 1995 indicated that this was a growing problem. The students received support from various national organizations, in addition to 20 percent of school districts across Florida. Armed with well prepared draft legislation and talking points, the students proceeded to find a bill sponsor in both the Florida Senate and Florida House of Representatives and legislation was filed in both chambers. Although these bills did not ultimately pass in the process, these students did bring statewide attention to a serious issue.

Revised

Furthermore, on May 24th, the Miami Lakes Middle School Project Citizen entry won first place at the State Competition held at the Palm Beach Convention Center. They advanced to represent our state at the National Competition in California on July 19th - 21st, where they received a Superior rating, one of only five states to receive such an honor.

Project Citizen is a civics academic endeavor that allows students to understand their local and state governments, express their opinions, acquire the knowledge and skills to allow them to participate to an adequate degree, and work cooperatively with other students. These skills help them accomplish their goals and actively influence public policy adhering to the fundamental values and principles of American democracy.

The following students from the 2011-2012 Miami Lakes Project Citizen Class are recognized and congratulated for their outstanding contributions to student safety:

1. Gilberto Barrios
2. Ana Cruz
3. Carlos Cuza
4. Marvin Espinoza
5. Derlis Leyva
6. Aileen Martínez
7. Diana Perez
8. Francisco Rivas
9. Rebecca Vega

**ACTION PROPOSED BY CHAIR
MS. PERLA TABARES HANTMAN:**

That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, approve Resolution No. 12-130 of The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, recognizing the students of the 2011-2012 Miami Lakes Middle School Project Citizen Class for winning first place at the State Competition and earning a Superior rating at the National Competition this summer with their project "Warning! Illegal Passing of School Buses."

**REQUEST FOR APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION NO. 12-130
OF THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA,
RECOGNIZING THE MIAMI LAKES MIDDLE SCHOOL PROJECT CITIZEN STUDENTS**

WHEREAS, Project Citizen is a civics academic endeavor that allows students to understand their local and state governments, express their opinions, acquire the knowledge and skills to allow them to participate to a degree, and work cooperatively with other students; and

WHEREAS, these skills help them accomplish their goals and actively influence public policy adhering to the fundamental values and principles of American democracy; and

WHEREAS, the 2011-2012 Miami Lakes Middle School Project Citizen Class developed an award-winning safety project entitled, "Warning! Illegal Passing of School Buses," focusing on the unlawful practice by vehicles of passing school buses that are stopped to allow for students to embark and disembark; and

WHEREAS, data collected by various public organizations since 1995 indicated that this was a growing problem. The students contacted their state representative and persuaded him to sponsor their bill. They proceeded to find a sponsor in the Florida Senate who would file a companion bill; and

WHEREAS, these students had legislation filed in both the Florida Senate and the Florida House of Representatives highlighting student safety; and } Revised

WHEREAS, on May 24th, the Miami Lakes Middle School Project Citizen entry won first place at the state competition. They advanced to represent our state at the national competition in California held in July, where they received a Superior rating, one of only five states to receive such an honor; and

WHEREAS, the nine-member team 2011-2012 Miami Lakes Project Citizen Class are recognized and congratulated for their outstanding contributions to student safety;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, approve Resolution No. 12-130 of The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, recognizing the students of the 2011-2012 Miami Lakes Middle School Project Citizen Class for winning first place at the State Competition and earning a Superior rating at the National Competition this summer with their project "Warning! Illegal Passing of School Buses."

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

Presented this fifth day of September, A.D. 2012

THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA

CHAIR

ATTEST:

Secretary