

Mr. Carlos L. Curbelo, Board Member

**SUBJECT:** REQUEST FOR APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION NO. 13-058 OF THE  
SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA,  
HONORING MARUCHI MENDEZ

**COMMITTEE:** INSTRUCTIONAL EXCELLENCE AND COMMUNITY  
ENGAGEMENT

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

Maruchi Mendez is the co-founder of JunTos Foundation, a non-profit organization devoted to helping children and families who are experiencing terminal and life-threatening illnesses. Ms. Mendez's son, Ramiro "Toti" Mendez, passed away on April 2, 2000 at the age of 20, a victim of sudden cardiac death caused by undetected cardiomyopathy. Toti was a gifted athlete with a passion for baseball. Florida International University retired his uniform number, 23, and established a scholarship fund in his name known as "The 23 Scholarship Endowment Fund."

Since Toti's untimely death, Ms. Mendez has dedicated her time and efforts to campaigning for high school and college athletes to receive proper medical screenings and testing, including an electrocardiogram, or EKG, before playing sports. Ms. Mendez and many cardiologists believe that proper screening and testing could have prevented the tragic death of her son. Studies show that sudden cardiac death is the number one reason for the deaths of young athletes.

The Toti Mendez Foundation was formed in an effort to prevent the unnecessary deaths of athletes because of sudden cardiac death. The Toti Mendez Foundation's mission and objective is to establish procedures in current physical examinations to ensure that heart ailments do not go undetected. In addition, the Foundation seeks to make certain that any further necessary testing be done and that a patient's confidentiality is protected.

Miami-Dade County Public Schools commends Maruchi Mendez for her commitment to the health, welfare, and well-being of our community's students, parents, and families.

**ACTION PROPOSED BY  
CARLOS L. CURBELO:**

That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, approve Resolution No. 13-058 of The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, honoring Maruchi Mendez.

**Replacement  
H-16**

**RESOLUTION NO. 13-058  
OF THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA,  
HONORING MARUCHI MENDEZ**

**WHEREAS**, Maruchi Mendez is the co-founder of JunTos Foundation, a non-profit organization devoted to helping children and families who are experiencing terminal and life-threatening illnesses; and

**WHEREAS**, Ms. Mendez's son, Ramiro "Toti" Mendez, passed away on April 2, 2000 at the age of 20, a victim of sudden cardiac death caused by undetected cardiomyopathy; and

**WHEREAS**, Toti was a gifted athlete with a passion for baseball. Florida International University retired his uniform number, 23, and established a scholarship fund in his name known as "The 23 Scholarship Endowment Fund"; and

**WHEREAS**, since Toti's untimely death, Ms. Mendez has dedicated her time and efforts to campaigning for high school and college athletes to receive proper medical screenings and testing, including an electrocardiogram, or EKG, before playing sports; and

**WHEREAS**, the Toti Mendez Foundation was formed in an effort to prevent the unnecessary deaths of athletes because of sudden cardiac death. The Toti Mendez Foundation's mission and objective is to establish procedures in current physical examinations to ensure that heart ailments do not go undetected; and

**WHEREAS**, Miami-Dade County Public Schools commends Maruchi Mendez for her commitment to the health, welfare, and well-being of our community's students, parents, and families;

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

The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, approve Resolution No. 13-058 of The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, honoring Maruchi Mendez.

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

**Presented this seventeenth day of April, A.D. 2013**

THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA

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CHAIR

ATTEST:

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Secretary