

Dr. Dorothy Bendross-Mindingall, Board Member

**SUBJECT:** REQUEST FOR APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION NO. 13-111 OF THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA, RECOGNIZING SHETERRIA ELLIOTT FOR ADVOCATING AND TAKING A STAND AGAINST BULLYING

**COMMITTEE:** INSTRUCTIONAL EXCELLENCE AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

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

Fourteen year old Sheterrria Elliott is not unlike the average teenage girl, yet she has found a way to distinguish herself in a significant way that is helping to give a voice to those on the receiving end of bullying. Her message is clear: no one deserves to be mistreated for any reason. Sheterrria knows the first-hand pain associated with being bullied. Born with a condition known as albinism in which there is little or no pigment in the eyes, skin, or hair, taunts from her peers started as early as pre-kindergarten.

Terry and Sherria Elliott, Sheterrria's parents, were actively involved in their child's education from the onset. Parental involvement, however, was quickly elevated to frequent parent teacher meeting in an attempt to shield their young daughter from the harsh reality of being slightly different. Mr. and Mrs. Elliott pushed for educating teachers and other students about albinism. They believed that bullying would cease once others became informed about the condition.

While the elementary years were relatively peaceful for Sheterrria with the support of her teachers, principal and parents, she would face her most painful experience of bullying in middle school. Unbeknownst to Sheterrria, a snapped picture of her by a classmate on a cell phone, placed on a social media website would disrupt her world. It was not until later in the day that she became aware of the picture and the hateful intent behind it. School administrators quickly intervened, but with the far reach of social media, the damage was already done.

Soon following, Terry, Sherria and Sheterrria Elliott decided to take up the larger cause of bullying, recognizing that Sheterrria was not alone in suffering its psychological and emotional effects. They knew that greater provisions would need to be made in school bullying policies to create a safe space for all children. Sheterrria began speaking to other children on tips for coping with bullying. In 2013, Florida State Senator Dwight Bullard also embarked on the journey with the Elliott family by sponsoring Senate Bill 626, also known as "The Imagine Sheterrria Elliott Act". The new measures that expanded to technology use and social media successfully passed on July 1, 2013.

**ACTION PROPOSED BY  
DR. DOROTHY BENDROSS-MINDINGALL:**

That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, approve Resolution No. 13-111 of The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, recognizing Sheterrria Elliott for advocating and taking a stand against bullying.

**Replacement  
H-16**

**RESOLUTION NO. 13-111  
OF THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA,  
RECOGNIZING SHETERRIA ELLIOTT FOR ADVOCATING AND TAKING A  
STAND AGAINST BULLYING**

**WHEREAS**, fourteen year old Shetterria Elliott is not unlike the average teenage girl, yet she has found a way to distinguish herself in a significant way that is helping to give a voice to those on the receiving end of bullying. Shetterria knows the first-hand pain associated with being bullied. Born with a condition known as albinism in which there is little or no pigment in the eyes, skin, or hair, taunts from her peers started as early as pre-kindergarten; and

**WHEREAS**, Terry and Sherria Elliott, Shetterria's parents pushed for educating teachers and other students about albinism. They believed that bullying would cease once others became informed about the condition; and

**WHEREAS**, Shetterria faced her most painful experience of bullying in middle school. Unbeknownst to her, a snapped picture of her by a classmate on a cell phone, placed on a social media website would disrupt her world. Although school administrators quickly intervened, the far reach of social media had already caused their effect; and

**WHEREAS**, Terry, Sherria and Shetterria Elliott decided to take up the larger cause of bullying, recognizing that Shetterria was not alone in suffering its psychological and emotional effects. They knew that greater provisions would need to be made in school bullying policies to create a safe space for all children. Shetterria began speaking to other children on tips for coping with bullying; and

**WHEREAS**, Shetterria Elliott is to be commended for standing up in the face of difficult situations to advocate for those without a voice. Her strength as well as her story were invaluable assets in the passage of Senate Bill 626, expanding State policy on bullying to include technology use and social media;

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

The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, approve Resolution No. 13-111 of The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, recognizing Shetterria Elliott for advocating and taking a stand against bullying.

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

**Presented this third day of September, A.D. 2013**

THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA

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CHAIR

ATTEST:

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Secretary