

Dr. Martin Karp, Board Member

**SUBJECT:                   REQUEST FOR APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION NO. 14-017  
OF THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY,  
FLORIDA, RECOGNIZING BISCAYNE ELEMENTARY  
SCHOOL EDUCATORS AND SUPPORT STAFF, MAX  
PONTON AND HIS MOTHER, BARBARA MENENDEZ FOR  
THEIR POSITIVE ATTITUDE AND TEAMWORK**

**COMMITTEE:               INSTRUCTIONAL   EXCELLENCE    AND   COMMUNITY  
ENGAGEMENT**

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

Educators and support staff at Biscayne Elementary School are being recognized for the professionalism and care given to all students and especially to students with special needs. One example is Max Ponton, who when picked up from the bus in the morning until the time he arrives back home is cared for and taught by the best in the business according to Max's mother. She said, "Words can't describe how his teachers, bus driver staff, and therapists have touched our lives."

Max's school days begin with the welcoming smile of Ms. Ana Larios, bus driver and Ms. Theresa Howard, bus aide. These two employees are caring and professional. Max is welcomed to the bus by Ms. Howard who assists Max so he does not trip or miss a step and watches that he is appropriately secured and seated to ensure a safe trip. Once Max arrives at school, Mr. Gustavo Ortega, teacher, welcomes and comforts Max very gently. Also, paraprofessionals Ms. Maria Eva Rodriguez and Ms. Yilian Cabeza make Max feel loved and understood who at times is insecure due to Autism. Also, Ms. Shelly Jacobs, special education staff who evaluated Max is to be commended for evaluating Max before the beginning of the school year.

The School Board applauds the efforts of the educators and support staff at Biscayne Elementary School for the great job they are doing by treating all their students with love, respect and infinite commitment and dedication.

**ACTION PROPOSED BY  
DR. MARTIN KARP:**

That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, approve Resolution No. 14-017 of The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, recognizing Biscayne Elementary School educators and support staff, Max Ponton and his mother, Barbara Menendez for their positive attitude and teamwork.

**RESOLUTION NO. 14-017  
OF THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA,  
RECOGNIZING BISCAYNE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL EDUCATORS AND SUPPORT  
STAFF, MAX PONTON AND HIS MOTHER, BARBARA MENENDEZ FOR THEIR  
POSITIVE ATTITUDE AND TEAMWORK**

**WHEREAS**, Ms. Ana Larios bus driver and Ms. Theresa Howard, bus aide are to be commended for their professionalism and care they give to Max Ponton; and

**WHEREAS**, When Max enters Biscayne Elementary, he is welcomed and comforted by his teacher, Mr. Gustavo Ortega and paraprofessionals, Ms. Eva Rodriguez and Ms. Jilian Cabeza; and

**WHEREAS**, Max who at times is insecure due to Autism feels loved and understood by his second family at Biscayne Elementary School; and

**WHEREAS**, Ms. Shelly Jacobs, special education staff who evaluated Max should be commended for evaluating Max before the beginning of the school year; and

**WHEREAS**, Biscayne Elementary School treats all their students with love, respect and infinite commitment and dedication; and

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

The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, approve Resolution No. 14-017 of The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, recognizing Biscayne Elementary School educators and support staff, Max Ponton and his mother, Barbara Menendez for their positive attitude and teamwork.

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

**Presented this twelfth day of February, A.D. 2014**

THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA

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CHAIR

ATTEST:

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Secretary