

Dr. Lawrence S. Feldman, Vice Chair

SUBJECT: REQUEST APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION NO. 14-071 OF THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA, RECOGNIZING ODYSSEY OF THE MIND CHAMPIONS HOWARD DRIVE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

COMMITTEE: INSTRUCTIONAL EXCELLENCE AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

LINK TO STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK: SCHOOL/DISTRICT LEADERSHIP

Odyssey Of The Mind is an international educational program that provides creative problem-solving opportunities for students from kindergarten through college. Team members apply their creativity to solve problems that range from building mechanical devices to presenting their own interpretation of literary classics. They then bring their solutions to compete on the local, state, and world level. Thousands of teams from throughout the United States and from 25 other countries participate in the program.

For the team of seven students from Howard Drive Elementary School, their ability to think outside of the box earned them the right to call themselves World Champions winning first-place at the 2014 World Finals at Iowa State University. The championship team which included Alex Eum, Matthew Lamas, Andres Laventman, Leah Melendez, Kennedy Todd, and siblings Sofia and Lorenzo Vinueza, competed with about 800 other teams from across the nation and around the world in a four-day tournament.

Each year, the Odyssey of the Mind organization releases five long-term problems. Teams may choose one to work on and then present their solutions at the regional, state and world levels. During competition, teams also are given a problem to solve on the spot. The team decided to recast the popular fable, "The Three Little Pigs," to make the Big Bad Wolf into the kind-hearted hero who saves the pigs, sheep and a baby chick instead of preying on them.

Some of the problems are more technical, such as building and operating a vehicle or a robot, while others are artistic and performance based, such as writing an additional chapter to Moby Dick, or bringing a painting to life. Art, literature and architecture are emphasized.

This year's competition centered on an exercise called the Driver's Test, in which students had to design and build a vehicle and drive it while picking up objects. Under the direction of coaches Lida Mari-Todd and Milton Todd, the students' themed skit included a wooden vehicle they designed and built to look like a wolf, using dryer lint as fur. They also created a story line, script, songs, choreography, props and costumes.

Miami-Dade County Public Schools commends the student team from Howard Drive Elementary School for being the 2014 World champions, their coaches and parents for representing the school district at this competition.

**ACTION PROPOSED BY
DR. LAWRENCE S. FELDMAN:**

That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, approve Resolution No. 14-071 of The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, recognizing Odyssey of the Mind Champions Howard Drive Elementary School.

**RESOLUTION NO. 14-071
OF THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA,
RECOGNIZING ODYSSEY OF THE MIND CHAMPIONS HOWARD DRIVE ELEMENTARY**

WHEREAS, Odyssey Of The Mind is an international educational program that provides creative problem-solving opportunities for students from kindergarten through college. Team members apply their creativity to solve problems that range from building mechanical devices to presenting their own interpretation of literary classics; and

WHEREAS, for the team of seven students from Howard Drive Elementary School, their ability to think outside of the box earned them the right to call themselves World Champions winning first-place at the 2014 World Finals at Iowa State University. The championship team which included Alex Eum, Matthew Lamas, Andres Laventman, Leah Melendez, Kennedy Todd, and siblings Sofia and Lorenzo Vinueza, competed with about 800 other teams from across the nation and around the world in a four-day tournament.

WHEREAS, each year, the Odyssey of the Mind organization releases five long-term problems. Teams may choose one to work on and then present their solutions at the regional, state and world levels. The Howard Drive team decided to recast the popular fable, "The Three Little Pigs," to make the Big Bad Wolf into the kind-hearted hero who saves the pigs, sheep and a baby chick instead of preying on them; and

WHEREAS, some problems are more technical, such as building and operating a vehicle or a robot, while others are artistic and performance based, such as writing an additional chapter to Moby Dick, or bringing a painting to life. This year's competition centered on an exercise called the Driver's Test, in which students had to design and build a vehicle and drive it while picking up objects; and

WHEREAS, under the direction of coaches Lida Mari-Todd and Milton Todd, the students' themed skit included a wooden vehicle they designed and built to look like a wolf, using dryer lint as fur. They also created a story line, script, songs, choreography, props and costumes; and

WHEREAS, Miami-Dade County Public Schools commends the student team from Howard Drive Elementary School for being the 2014 World champions, their coaches and parents for representing the school district at this competition;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, approve Resolution No. 14-071 of The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, recognizing Odyssey of the Mind Champions Howard Drive Elementary School.

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

Presented this sixth day of August, A.D. 2014

THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA

CHAIR

ATTEST:

Secretary