

Ms. Raquel Regalado, Board Member

SUBJECT: PET EDUCATION AND RESPONSIBILITY TRAINING PROGRAM FOR M-DCPS STUDENTS

COMMITTEE: INSTRUCTIONAL EXCELLENCE AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

LINK TO STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK: STUDENT, PARENT AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

For several years, Miami-Dade County Public Schools has celebrated Be Kind to Animals Week and has supported several initiatives to educate our students about pet responsibility. Historically, these initiatives have included everything from airing Miami-Dade County's PSA's on WLRN to providing adopt-a-thons and internships at Miami-Dade County's Animal Services.

The Pets' Trust Miami, Inc. (PTM) is a private non-profit entity that in January of 2012 started a grass roots effort that resulted in the inclusion of the straw ballot question on the November 2012 ballot. Wherein 64% of voters approved to fund a no-kill initiative and create programs to reduce the number of cats and dogs killed at Miami-Dade Animal Services. Not surprisingly, a component of this plan is an educational initiative that aimed at informing residents about animal welfare.

To date, the Pet Trust initiative has not been fully implemented by Miami-Dade County. However, there is an opportunity for M-DCPS to aid in the educational aspect of this plan now that all M-DCPS classrooms have Promethean boards. Specifically, Royal Palm Films which is currently producing a documentary on the Pet's Trust has offered to aid M-DCPS students, at no cost to the District, in the production of a pet welfare video that can be aired during Be Kind to Animals Week. Therefore, this item requests that the District through the Office of Communications work with Royal Palm Films in the production of a Pet welfare video that will be aired in all M-DCPS classrooms.

ACTION PROPOSED BY

RAQUEL REGALADO: That The School Board of Miami-Dade County Florida, through the Superintendent direct the Communications Department to work with Royal Palm Films in the production of a Pet Welfare video that will be aired in Miami-Dade County Public Schools.