

Dr. Dorothy Bendross-Mindingall, Board Member

**SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION NO. 15-XXX OF THE
SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA, RECOGNIZING
CONGRESSWOMAN CARRIE P. MEEK**

**COMMITTEE: INNOVATION, GOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS, AND COMMUNITY
ENGAGEMENT**

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

Carrie P. Meek was elected to the United States Congress in 1992 and was the first African American lawmaker to represent the State of Florida since the Reconstruction Era. Born Carrie Pittman on April 29th 1926 in Tallahassee Florida, Congresswoman Meek is the daughter of sharecroppers and granddaughter of slaves.

Congresswoman Meek graduated from Florida A&M University in 1946 with a Bachelor of Science degree in Biology and Education. She later attended Michigan State University to complete her graduate studies because blacks were banned from attending graduate school in Florida. In 1948, Congresswoman Meek completed her Master of Science degree in Public Health and Physical Education. The Congresswoman began her teaching career at the historic Bethune Cookman College in Daytona Beach, where she taught Biology and Physical Education. Relocating to Miami-Dade County in 1961, Congresswoman Meek spent three decades as a teacher and administrator at Miami-Dade Community College.

In 1978, Congresswoman Meek won election to the Florida House of Representatives where she served from 1978 to 1993. During her tenure, the Congresswoman served as the chairwoman of the Education Appropriations Subcommittee from 1983 to 1993. As chairwoman, she played an integral in passing legislation that helped improve schools. After being elected to United States Congress at 66 years old, Congresswoman Meek launched an ambitious agenda that focused on the needs of her district that included issues arising from unemployment, immigration, poverty, and natural disasters.

Throughout her six terms as a member of Congress, Congresswoman Meek became a champion for the least and the lost. The Congresswoman served as a voice for those who were under represented and underserved by championing legislation that created jobs and provided opportunities for African Americans to have their own businesses. Additionally, Congresswoman Meek helped modify social security to cover household workers, fought for equal residency rights for Haitian immigrants, expanded Head Start to include Early Head Start, as well as expanded the Economic Opportunity Act programs.

Today, Congresswoman Carrie P. Meek is known as the "Mother of Miami" and is respected for her commitment, dedication and service to the people of her community.

The School Board commends the Honorable Congresswoman Carrie P. Meek for her leadership and service to the children and families of Miami-Dade County and the State of Florida.

ACTION PROPOSED BY

DR. DOROTHY BENDROSS-MINDINGALL:

That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, approve Resolution No. 15-XXX of The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, recognizing Congresswoman Carrie P. Meek.