

Dr. Dorothy Bendross-Mindingall, Board Member

**SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION NO. 15-015 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 in Washington, D.C. since Reconstruction. Born Carrie Pittman on April 29, 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 1979, Congresswoman Meek won a special election to the Florida House of Representatives where she served from 1979 to 1982. Meek was then elected to the Florida Senate where she served from 1982 to 1992. During her tenure, Meek served as the chairwoman of the Education Appropriations Sub-Committee. As chairwoman, she played an integral part in passing legislation that helped improve schools. Upon her election to the United States Congress at 66 years of age, Congresswoman Meek launched an ambitious agenda that focused on the needs of her district that included a wide array of issues such as unemployment, immigration, poverty, and the consequences of natural disasters.

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Throughout her five terms as a member of Congress, Congresswoman Meek became a champion for the most marginalized and needy in our society. The Congresswoman served as a voice for those who were under-represented and under-served by championing legislation that created jobs and provided opportunities for African-Americans to own 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 recognizes 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.

**Revised<sup>2</sup>**  
**H-9**

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

That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, approve Resolution No. 15-015 of The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, recognizing Congresswoman Carrie P. Meek.

**RESOLUTION NO. 15-015  
OF THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA,  
RECOGNIZING CONGRESSWOMAN CARRIE P. MEEK**

**WHEREAS**, Carrie P. Meek was elected to the United States Congress in 1992 becoming the first African-American lawmaker to represent the State of Florida in Washington, D.C. since Reconstruction; being the daughter of sharecroppers and granddaughter of slaves advancing in life through pure sacrifice and hard work; and

**WHEREAS**, Meek graduated from Florida A&M University in 1946 with a Bachelor of Science degree in Biology and Education, later attending Michigan State University to complete her graduate studies since at the time blacks were being banned from attending graduate school in Florida, completing her Master of Science degree in Public Health and Physical Education in 1948; and

**WHEREAS**, Meek 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, where she spent three decades as a teacher and administrator at Miami-Dade Community College, and

**WHEREAS**, in 1979, Congresswoman Meek won a special election to the Florida House of Representatives, where she served from 1979 to 1982. Meek was then elected to the Florida Senate where she served from 1982 to 1992. In 1992, she was elected to the U.S. Congress at 66 years of age; and

**WHEREAS**, during her Congressional tenure, Meek served as the chairwoman of the Education Appropriations Sub-Committee, playing an integral part in passing legislation that helped improve schools, launched an ambitious agenda that focused on the needs of her district that included a wide array of issues such as unemployment, immigration, poverty, and the disastrous consequences of natural disasters; and

**WHEREAS**, throughout her five terms as a member of Congress, Congresswoman Meek became a champion for the most marginalized and needy in our society. The Congresswoman served as a voice for those who were under-represented and under-served by championing legislation that created jobs and provided opportunities for African-Americans to own their own businesses and develop their entrepreneurial spirit; and

**WHEREAS**, she helped modify Social Security to cover household workers, fought for equal residency rights for Haitian immigrants, expanded Head Start and the Economic Opportunity Act programs, acquiring the title of "Mother of Miami" for her service to the people of our community;

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

That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, approve Resolution No. 15-015 of The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, recognizing Carrie P. Meek.

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

**Presented this eleventh day of February, A.D. 2015**

THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA

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CHAIR

ATTEST:

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Secretary