

Dr. Lawrence S. Feldman, Vice Chair

SUBJECT: REQUEST APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION NO. 15-065 OF THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA, RECOGNIZING NICKLAUS CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL, THE EKG SCREENING PROGRAM FOR ATHLETES, AND DR. ANTHONY ROSSI

COMMITTEE: PERSONNEL SERVICES AND STUDENT AND SCHOOL SUPPORT

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

The leading cause of sudden death among young athletes is Sudden Cardiac Death (SCD). Every three days in the United States, a student athlete dies of SCD. Usually there are no advance signs or symptoms. In 2011, Nicklaus Children's Hospital, formerly Miami Children's Hospital, began offering free pediatric Electrocardiogram (EKG) testing to middle and high school sports participants. This program was launched in an effort to identify those at risk of Sudden Cardiac Arrest (SCA) and prevent tragedy. Since then some 3,000 students have been screened.

SCA usually strikes without warning, and is fatal in a majority of cases. A leading cause of death in adults over 40, SCA is relatively rare in children and young adults — though its incidence still isn't negligible. SCA in young people is usually caused by hypertrophic cardiomyopathy — a thickening of the heart muscle — or electrical abnormalities in the heart, such as Wolff-Parkinson-White syndrome. If left untreated, the extra connection can cause the heart to literally short-circuit, especially with the stress of exercise. Since the EKG screening program began, about a half dozen students have been diagnosed with this syndrome. Treatment for those affected can involve medication or surgery, and usually a decrease in the intensity of exercise.

While student athletes are required to pass a physical before playing, those conditions cannot be detected in a traditional physical. Dr. Anthony Rossi, Director of Cardiac Critical Care at Nicklaus Children's Hospital, recommends that all student athletes get screened once they have reached puberty. The hospital then follows up with those screened to make sure they remain healthy.

Dr. Rossi, the founder and former director of the pediatric intensive care unit in New York's Mount Sinai Hospital, arrived at Nicklaus Children's Hospital in 1999. He is fully trained in pediatric cardiac electrophysiology and electrophysiology. Dr. Rossi has published and has lectured extensively around the world and is an internationally renowned expert in children with complex physiology following congenital heart surgery. His extensive clinical experience in all aspects of cardiac critical care and innovative research designs add to his role as Director of the Cardiac Intensive Care Unit.

The School Board commends Nicklaus Children's Hospital and Dr. Anthony Rossi for their commitment to the health and wellbeing of student athletes in South Florida.

ACTION PROPOSED BY

DR. LAWRENCE S. FELDMAN: That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, approve Resolution No. 15-065 of The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, recognizing Nicklaus Children's Hospital, the EKG screening program for athletes, and Dr. Anthony Rossi.

RESOLUTION NO. 15-065
OF THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA,
RECOGNIZING NICKLAUS CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL, THE EKG SCREENING PROGRAM FOR
ATHLETES AND DR. ANTHONY ROSSI

WHEREAS, the leading cause of sudden death among young athletes is Sudden Cardiac Death (SCD). Every three days in the United States, a student athlete dies of SCD. Usually there are no advance signs or symptoms; and

WHEREAS, in 2011, Nicklaus Children's Hospital, formerly Miami Children's Hospital, began offering free pediatric Electrocardiogram (EKG) testing to middle and high school sports participants. This program was launched in an effort to identify those at risk of Sudden Cardiac Arrest (SCA) and prevent tragedy. Since then some 3,000 students have been screened; and

WHEREAS, SCA usually strikes without warning, and is fatal in a majority of cases, in young people SCA is usually caused by hypertrophic cardiomyopathy — a thickening of the heart muscle — or electrical abnormalities in the heart, such as Wolff-Parkinson-White syndrome. If left untreated, the extra connection can cause the heart to literally short-circuit, especially with the stress of exercise; and

WHEREAS, while student athletes are required to pass a physical before playing, those conditions cannot be detected in a traditional physical. Dr. Anthony Rossi, Director of Cardiac Critical Care at Nicklaus Children's Hospital, recommends that all student athletes get screened once they have reached puberty; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Rossi, the founder and former director of the pediatric intensive care unit in New York's Mount Sinai Hospital, arrived at Nicklaus Children's Hospital in 1999. He is fully trained in pediatric cardiac electrophysiology and electrophysiology; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Rossi has published and has lectured extensively around the world and is an internationally renowned expert in children with complex physiology following congenital heart surgery. His extensive clinical experience in all aspects of cardiac critical care and innovative research designs add to his role as Director of the Cardiac Intensive Care Unit; and

WHEREAS, the School Board commends Nicklaus Children's Hospital and Dr. Anthony Rossi for their commitment to the health and wellbeing of student athletes in South Florida;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, approve Resolution No. 15-065 of The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, recognizing Nicklaus Children's Hospital, the EKG screening program for athletes, and Dr. Anthony Rossi.

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

Presented this fifth day of August, A.D. 2015

THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA

CHAIR

ATTEST:

Secretary