

Dr. Lawrence S. Feldman, Vice Chair

SUBJECT: REQUEST APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION NO. 15-094 OF THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA, RECOGNIZING THE PTSA OF FRANK C. MARTIN AND VINELAND K-8 CENTER

COMMITTEE: PERSONNEL SERVICES AND STUDENT AND SCHOOL SUPPORT

LINK TO STRATEGIC BLUEPRINT: SAFE, HEALTHY AND SUPPORTIVE LEARNING ENVIRONMENT

The Parent Teacher Association (PTA/PTSA) is the largest volunteer organization in the United States with a singular and strategic purpose—to serve children, their families, and their school communities. There are over six million PTA/PTSA members in the nation with more than 364,000 members in Florida. Miami-Dade County Public Schools is fortunate to have the dynamic and dedicated Miami-Dade Council of PTA/PTSA whose strategic initiatives in advocacy advances educationally sound and student-centered legislation. Through structured leadership and commitment to their mission, PTA/PTSA's membership support access and opportunity by speaking on behalf of children and youth in schools and community, and before governmental agencies and organizations that make decisions affecting children; assist parents in developing skills needed to raise and protect their children; and encourage parent and public involvement in our schools. PTSA leadership at two local schools exemplify outstanding dedication to this mission and are to be commended for their contributions to enhancing education and the learning environment for all children in their school community.

Frank C. Martin International K8 Center PTSA (FCM PTSA), under the leadership of President Christa Dean Dotson, has worked to increase student programming and increase communication with the school community while transitioning to a more inclusive and welcoming organization. Through the creation of welcome banners with the flags of almost every nationality of its families, the entire school community feels at home. Student membership has increased from 0 to nearly 500 student members. This PTSA has also expanded their reach to corporate and community partners with the goal of expanding student and parent-centered programs and have become involved in "Give Miami" to facilitate volunteer and donation. They have broadened communication practices, beyond the standard posters and flyers, to include texting services that ensure every parent is reached; and initiated 'The FCM PTSA Legislative Blog' so every Call to Action and Legislative issue is shared with families to promote engagement and advocacy. They meet with local church pastors, commissioners and representatives with the primary focus of expanding their relationship and advocating for students educational needs. They have created innovative programs including Mother/Son Dance, First Fridays Parent Networking and have adopted the road around the school through the Adopt-a-Road program. The FCM PTSA provides innovative fundraising opportunities like the Harlem Wizards visit, where administrators, teachers and staff play a "Globetrotter-like" team and promote fitness while having fun. Recently, they ignited the Real Men Join PTA movement in Miami Dade County. With the now very recognizable Orange T-shirt featuring the "Real Men Join PTA" logo, the Men of FCM are Heroes in the Hallways making the campus safer and serving as positive make role models, participating in the Men of FCM Chili Cook-off, Miami Heat Games, Florida Marlins games and so much more.

With an inclusive student-centered focus, and under the leadership of President Jessica Blanco, Vineland's PTA has grown into a strong community that works to provide necessary supports in and out of the classroom. The support and planning begins well before the school year officially starts in August. Each summer, they eagerly wait for the theme of the coming year in order to mobilize their troops, decorate the school and provide a welcome back breakfast for teachers and support staff. Vineland's PTA thoughtfully plans for afterschool events like Family Fun Night, where families come to play games from dominoes to Connect Four and engage in an opportunity to connect with fellow Vineland Families. They also participate in school book fairs, fund raisers, pizza sales, carnival planning, and decorating the school to promote any and all activities that provide a sense of community and unity so that Vineland K-8 Students feel they are in their "second home". The financial support they provide is focused on the students of Vineland K-8. With that focus, and in coordination with the teachers and administration, they were able to help implement robotics as an elective in the Upper Academy. The PTSA has also purchased two mobile computer labs, reading programs, countless books, incentive material for the children and technology upgrades. Vineland K-8 Center PTSA goes beyond fund-raising, they also help support families in need with members purchasing dresses/outfits for the 8th grade promotion ceremony, field trip sponsorship and donations of Thanksgiving meals. Through their generosity, leadership and commitment, Vineland K8 Center is truly the "second home" of the school community.

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

That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, approve Resolution No. 15-094 of The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, recognizing the PTSA of Frank C. Martin and Vineland K-8 Center.

RESOLUTION NO. 15-094
OF THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA,
RECOGNIZING THE PTSA OF FRANK C. MARTIN AND VINELAND K-8 CENTER

WHEREAS, The Parent Teacher Association (PTA/PTSA) is the largest volunteer organization in the United States with a singular and strategic purpose —to serve children, their families, and their school communities. There are over six million PTA/PTSA members in the nation with more than 364,000 members in Florida; and

WHEREAS, here in Miami-Dade County Public Schools, we are fortunate to have the dynamic and committed Miami-Dade Council of PTA/PTSA whose initiatives in advocacy work to enhance and advance educationally sound and student-centered legislation; and

WHEREAS, through structured leadership and unyielding commitment to their mission, PTA/PTSA's leadership support and speak on behalf of children and youth in the schools, in the community, and before governmental agencies and organizations that make decisions affecting children; assist parents in developing the skills they need to raise and protect their children; and encourage parent and public involvement in our schools; and

WHEREAS, The PTSA at Frank C. Martin International K8 Center, under the leadership of President Christa Dean Dotson, has worked to increase student programming and increase communication with the school community, increased student membership to nearly 500 student members, expanded their reach to corporate and community partners, broadened communication practices to include texting services and "The FCM PTSA Legislative Blog", created innovative programs including Mother/Son Dance, First Fridays Parent Networking, and ignited the Real Men Join PTA movement in Miami Dade County; and

WHEREAS, The PTSA at Vineland K-8 Center, under the leadership of President Jessica Blanco, has grown into a strong community that works to provide necessary supports in and out of the classroom, provides a welcome back breakfast for teachers and support staff, thoughtfully plans for afterschool events like Family Fun Night, participate in school book fairs, fund raisers, pizza sales, carnival planning, and decorating the school to promote any and all activities, helped implement robotics as an elective in the Upper Academy, purchased two mobile computer labs, reading programs, countless books, incentive material for the children and technology and helps support families in need through their generosity.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, approve Resolution No. 15-094 of The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida recognizing the PTSA of Frank C. Martin and Vineland K-8 Center.

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

Presented this eighteenth day of November, A.D. 2015

THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA

CHAIR

ATTEST:

Secretary