

Ms. Raquel Regalado, Board Member

SUBJECT: REQUEST APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION NO. 15-105 OF THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA, HONORING GUITARS OVER GUNS

COMMITTEE: ACADEMICS, EVALUATION AND TECHNOLOGY

LINK TO STRATEGIC BLUEPRINT: RELEVANT, RIGOROUS AND INNOVATIVE ACADEMICS

In 2008, accomplished musician and educator Dr. Chad Bernstein, together with his father, Bob Bernstein, founded Guitars Over Guns Organization (GOGO), a mentorship program that provides at-risk students in Miami and Chicago with a music education. The not-for-profit foundation program promotes music as an alternative to their neighborhood gangs and violence, aims to keep them in school and graduate.

Through an initial partnership with Communities in Schools of Miami, GOGO began mentoring students of North Miami Middle School. The program grew over the next three years, increasing in popularity among the students and gaining traction in the school and community through performances. GOGO opened a second program in 2012-13 at Miami Edison Middle School. After Edison closed its doors in 2014, GOGO moved to Allapattah Middle School.

The inspiration for GOGO derived from ¡Suénalo!, a popular nine-piece Latin funk Miami band, which Dr. Bernstein had belonged to that had been mentoring students for several years. GOGO teaches students how to play a range of instruments, as well as music skills, including guitar, keyboard, trumpet, singing and music production. Students are paired up with a mentor to focus on one of these skills, and they work together throughout the school year.

The young musicians then have the opportunity to showcase their talents in student concerts. GOGO encourages students to choose their sound, and use music as something positive to combat sadness, frustration and negativity.

GOGO students work with professional musicians and mentors on what the organization calls its “three pillars: mentoring, instrument instruction, and ensemble training.” The program began in Miami to benefit young adults in the city’s poorest neighborhoods, and expanded to a Chicago chapter in fall 2014. Dr. Bernstein, who has worked with top artists such as Pharrell, Shakira and Pitbull, is an adjunct music professor at Florida International University.

The School Board commends Dr. Chad Bernstein and the Guitars Over Guns Organization for their service to the students of Miami-Dade County Public Schools.

**ACTION PROPOSED BY
MS. RAQUEL REGALADO:**

That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, approve Resolution No. 15-105 of The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, honoring the Guitars Over Guns Organization.

**Replacement
B-10**

**RESOLUTION NO. 15-105
OF THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA,
HONORING THE GUITARS OVER GUNS ORGANIZATION**

WHEREAS, In 2008, accomplished musician and educator Dr. Chad Bernstein, together with his father, Bob Bernstein, founded Guitars Over Guns Organization (GOGO), a mentorship program that provides at-risk students in Miami and Chicago with a music education. The not-for-profit foundation program promotes music as an alternative to their neighborhood gangs and violence, aims to keep them in school and graduate; and

WHEREAS, through an initial partnership with Communities in Schools of Miami, GOGO began mentoring students of North Miami middle school. The program grew over the next three years, increasing in popularity among the students and gaining traction in the school and community through performances. GOGO opened a second program in 2012-13 at Miami Edison Middle School. After Edison closed its doors in 2014, GOGO moved to Allapattah Middle School; and

WHEREAS, the inspiration for GOGO derived from ¡Suénalo!, a popular nine-piece Latin funk Miami band, which Dr. Bernstein had belonged to that had been mentoring students for several years; and

WHEREAS, GOGO teaches students how to play a range of instruments, as well as music skills, including guitar, keyboard, trumpet, singing and music production. Students are paired up with a mentor to focus on one of these skills, and they work together throughout the school year; and

WHEREAS, the young musicians then have the opportunity to showcase their talents in student concerts. GOGO encourages students to choose their sound, and use music as something positive to combat sadness, frustration and negativity; and

WHEREAS, GOGO students work with professional musicians and mentors on what the organization calls its “three pillars: mentoring, instrument instruction, and ensemble training.” The program began in Miami to benefit young adults in the city’s poorest neighborhoods, and expanded to a Chicago chapter in fall 2014; and

WHEREAS, the School Board commends Dr. Chad Bernstein and the Guitars Over Guns Organization for their service to the students of Miami-Dade County Public Schools;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, approve Resolution No. 15-105 of The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, honoring the Guitars Over Guns Organization.

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

Presented this second day of December, A.D. 2015

THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA

CHAIR

ATTEST:

Secretary