

Dr. Lawrence S. Feldman, Board Member

Co-Sponsors: Ms. Susie V. Castillo, Board Member
Ms. Lubby Navarro, Board Member

SUBJECT: REQUEST APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION NO. 16-038 OF THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA, RECOGNIZING MIAMI-DADE COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS RETIREES

COMMITTEE: PERSONNEL SERVICES AND STUDENT AND SCHOOL SUPPORT

LINK TO STRATEGIC BLUEPRINT: HIGHLY EFFECTIVE TEACHERS, LEADERS AND STAFF

Highly effective, teachers, leaders and staff are the cornerstone of a successful and vibrant school system. Miami-Dade County Public Schools (M-DCPS) and the communities it serves benefit from the commitment to outstanding service made by its dedicated employees. In continuing to recognize excellence and exemplary service as outlined in the 2015-2020 Strategic Blueprint, this item seeks to honor the work of two long-time employees who have exhibited unwavering support and relentless guidance on our path to success. Their careers exemplify outstanding practices, personal achievements, and dedicated professionalism.

William A. Richards, III, better known to his colleagues and friends as “Chip”, is retiring from the school district after 35 years of experience as a detail oriented, self-motivated, dedicated, seasoned television broadcasting executive. “Chip” Richards has been an excellent, well-organized, and efficient worker for M-DCPS and WLRN where he has served as Television Production Manager from 1996 to the present; Video Director and Crew Chief from 1980 to 1996; and Master Switcher Operator at a previous employer from 1978 to 1980. His professional longevity shows adaption to changing markets, with the ability to make tough decisions in budgets, operations and personnel matters, while maintaining a team oriented and collaborative spirit. “Chip” Richards’ life and work experience has brought him numerous awards and recognition including membership in the Nomination Committee for the National Academy of Television Arts and Sciences, select and recommend Executive Counsel for the organization; member of the National Academy of Television Arts and Sciences Scholarship Awards Committee, awarding over \$80,000 in scholarships a year. “Chip” has also served as Video Director for Major League Soccer; elected National Trustee of National Academy of Television Arts and Sciences, an organization that awards the Emmy for excellence in Daytime Television, Sports, News and Documentaries, as well as New Technology; elected President of Suncoast Chapter of National Academy of Television Arts and Sciences, and participation with many other national organizations and professional committees attesting well to his professional acumen.

Isora Castro has been the Executive Director, Facilities, Office of Capital Construction Budgets and Contract Management, spending 42 years in the industry, of which 36 years were dedicated to school construction, planning, budgeting, scheduling and accounting. She retires leaving a legacy of achievement and unrivaled institutional knowledge. As an Advanced Planning Coordinator, Budget Supervisor and Executive Director, she was responsible for the budgeting, cost controls, contract management, processing and reporting of all capital payments. During her tenure, she helped establish the Office of Capital Construction Budgets to ensure accurate project budgeting and cost controls and initiated a collaborative project with Information.

Technology Services to implement several integrated programs that would allow staff to track financial and project information and generate reports for all capital projects. Ms. Castro also spearheaded the application process for the State's School Infrastructure Thrift Trust, which was established in 1998 as an incentive for Districts to implement frugal construction practices. Through her efforts, the State awarded the District over \$11 million, which was used for the purchase and construction of school facilities. Ms. Castro initiated the application process for the State's Effort Index Grant, which awards funds to Districts that demonstrated local funding effort for school construction. This resulted in a \$62.7 million award, the highest award to any single district. She helped establish and manage the Direct Purchase of Construction Materials, which has saved the District over \$15 million in sales tax and mark-up by contractors. Ms. Castro also introduced a program for the bulk purchase of HVAC equipment in 2013, which saved the District \$2.7M (53%) in equipment cost.

These employees are to be commended for the dedication and professionalism displayed throughout their years of service.

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

The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida approve Resolution No.16-038 of The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, recognizing Miami-Dade County Public School Employees Mr. William A. Richards, III and Ms. Isora Castro.

**RESOLUTION NO. 16-038
OF THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA,
RECOGNIZING MIAMI-DADE COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS EMPLOYEES
MR. WILLIAM A. RICHARDS, III AND MS. ISORA CASTRO**

WHEREAS, highly effective, teachers, leaders and staff are the cornerstone of a successful and vibrant school system. Miami-Dade County Public Schools (M-DCPS) and the communities it serves benefit from the commitment to outstanding service made by its dedicated employees; and

WHEREAS, William A. Richards, III, better known to his colleagues and friends as “Chip”, is retiring from the school district after 35 years of experience as a detail oriented, self-motivated, dedicated, seasoned television broadcasting executive. “Chip” Richards has been an excellent, well-organized, and efficient worker for M-DCPS and WLRN where he has served as Television Production Manager from 1996 to the present; Video Director and Crew Chief from 1980 to 1996; and Master Switcher Operator at a previous employer from 1978 to 1980; and

WHEREAS, “Chip” Richards’ life and work experience has brought him numerous awards and recognition including membership in the Nomination Committee for the National Academy of Television Arts and Sciences, select and recommend Executive Counsel for the organization; member of the National Academy of Television Arts and Sciences Scholarship Awards Committee, awarding over \$80,000 in scholarships a year. “Chip” has also served as Video Director for Major League Soccer; elected National Trustee of National Academy of Television Arts and Sciences, an organization that awards the Emmy for excellence in Daytime Television, Sports, News and Documentaries, as well as New Technology; elected President of Suncoast Chapter of National Academy of Television Arts and Sciences, and participation with many other national organizations and professional committees attesting well to his professional acumen; and

WHEREAS, Isora Castro has been the Executive Director, Facilities, Office of Capital Construction Budgets and Contract Management, spending 42 years in the industry, of which 36 years were dedicated to school construction, planning, budgeting, scheduling and accounting. She retires leaving a legacy of achievement and unrivaled institutional knowledge. As an Advanced Planning Coordinator, Budget Supervisor and Executive Director, she was responsible for the budgeting, cost controls, contract management, processing and reporting of all capital payments. During her tenure, she helped establish the Office of Capital Construction Budgets to ensure accurate project budgeting and cost controls and initiated a collaborative project with ITS to implement several integrated programs that would allow staff to track financial and project information and generate reports for all capital projects; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Castro also spearheaded the application process for the State’s School Infrastructure Thrift Trust, which was established in 1998 as an incentive for District’s to implement frugal construction. Through her efforts, the State awarded the District over \$11 million, which was used for the purchase and construction of school facilities. Ms. Castro initiated the application process for the State’s Effort Index Grant, which awards funds to Districts that demonstrated local funding effort for school construction. This resulted in a \$62.7 million award, the highest award to any single district.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, approve Resolution No. 16-038 of The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, recognizing Miami-Dade County Public Schools Employees Mr. William A. Richards, III and Ms. Isora Castro.

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

Presented this thirteenth day of April, A.D. 2016

THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA

CHAIR

ATTEST:

Secretary