

Ms. Susie V. Castillo, Board Member

Co-Sponsors: Ms. Perla Tabares Hantman, Chair  
Dr. Dorothy Bendross-Mindingall, Vice Chair  
Dr. Lawrence S. Feldman, Board Member  
Dr. Wilbert "Tee" Holloway, Board Member  
Dr. Martin Karp, Board Member  
Ms. Lubby Navarro, Board Member  
Dr. Marta Pérez Wurtz, Board Member

**SUBJECT: REQUEST APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION NO. 16-051 OF THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA, RECOGNIZING JOSEPH EDISON GEBARA FOR HIS SERVICE AS PRESIDENT OF THE MIAMI-DADE COUNTY COUNCIL PTA/PTSA**

**COMMITTEE: INNOVATION, GOVERNMENT RELATIONS, AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT**

**LINK TO STRATEGIC BLUEPRINT: INFORMED, ENGAGED AND EMPOWERED STAKEHOLDERS**

Parental involvement is without a doubt one of the cornerstones of any great school; it is also a key component of a successful educational experience for any student. It is because of this that parent-teacher associations and the work they do is so critical to our overall success as a school district. The work of PTAs and PTSAs significantly improves the quality of the educational experience our children receive in school. It promotes engagement and helps involve parents in their children's education in meaningful ways.

Over the last two years, Mr. Joseph Edison Gebara has served as President of the Miami-Dade County Council PTA/PTSA, an organization with nearly 50,000 members, within 350 local units, serving close to 380,000 students and their families. In this role, he has been a tireless promoter of parental engagement and a strong advocate for children. Under his leadership, the Miami-Dade County Council PTA/PTSA has undertaken extensive community and parental engagement initiatives and trained parents on how to be effective members of their school's PTAs.

A vocal advocate for children and families, he can often be found speaking out on behalf of parents across our community on issues ranging from assessments and accountability, to school absenteeism and violence against young people on our streets. He is passionate about public education, and is a firm voice in support of this cause, frequently appearing on radio and television, as well as engaging stakeholders through social media.

**ACTION PROPOSED BY  
MS. SUSIE V. CASTILLO:**

That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, approve Resolution No. 16-051 of The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, recognizing Joseph Edison Gebara for his service as President of the Miami-Dade County Council PTA/PTSA.

**RESOLUTION NO. 16-051  
OF THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA,  
RECOGNIZING JOSEPH EDISON GEBARA FOR HIS SERVICE AS PRESIDENT OF  
THE MIAMI-DADE COUNTY COUNCIL PTA/PTSA**

**WHEREAS**, the Miami-Dade County Council PTA/PTSA is the largest parent-led advocacy organization in Florida, supporting children and public education, with nearly 50,000 members; and

**WHEREAS**, Mr. Joseph Edison Gebara has served as President of the Miami-Dade County Council PTA/PTSA for the past two years, leading advocacy efforts on behalf of parents and students at the local and state level; and

**WHEREAS**, a product of Miami-Dade County Public Schools, and former Special Education teacher, Mr. Gebara has dedicated his life to improving the quality of public education in our community; and

**WHEREAS**, he is a strong advocate for children and families, and can often be found speaking out on behalf of parents across Miami-Dade on issues ranging from assessments and accountability, to school absenteeism and violence against young people on our streets; and

**WHEREAS**, Mr. Gebara also serves as a member of The Children's Trust board, and prior to his current role, also served as Chair of Title I District Advisory Council for Miami-Dade County Public Schools from 2010-2014; and

**WHEREAS**, his passion and tireless commitment to advocating for children and public education in our community is remarkable and has served to help engage and inspire more Miami-Dade parents to get involved in their child's school;

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

The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, approve Resolution No. 16-051 of The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, recognizing Joseph Edison Gebara for his service as President of the Miami-Dade County Council PTA/PTSA.

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

**Presented this eleventh day of May, A.D. 2016**

THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA

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CHAIR

ATTEST:

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Secretary