

Dr. Marta Pérez Wurtz, Board Member

**SUBJECT: REQUEST APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION NO. 16-049 OF THE
SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA,
HONORING DR. WIL BLECHMAN**

COMMITTEE: ACADEMICS, EVALUATION, AND TECHNOLOGY

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

Dr. Wil Blechman has been a distinguished member of the South Florida community for many years and has dedicated his life to improving the lives of children.

As president of Kiwanis International's worldwide clubs, Dr. Blechman introduced a service program for club members centering on young children. Although his medical specialty was in the field of rheumatology, Dr. Blechman embarked on research into early childhood development and the factors that play a critical role. His findings, that early intervention was crucial especially for at-risk children, led Dr. Blechman to bring together experts who created the Kiwanis Young Children: Priority One. Begun as a three-year pilot program focusing on the needs of children aged birth to five, it has been in place for 24 years and has developed into an ongoing worldwide program.

Today, thanks to Dr. Blechman's efforts, Kiwanis Clubs participate in community service projects aimed at improving the lives of young children through programs involving maternal and child health, child care and development, parent education, and much more.

Dr. Blechman has gained national recognition for his expertise in early childhood development and has traveled the country as lecturer and speaker. He holds positions with prestigious organizations such as the Lawton Chiles Foundation, the Children's Forum, and was previously vice-chair of The Children's Trust. He served as an advisor for the United Way Center for Excellence in Early Education when it opened in 2007 and currently chairs the Center's health subcommittee. His latest endeavor is the Better Beginnings Baby Fair, a joint collaboration between the United Way, Kiwanis and the University of Florida Extension Services, which serves to inform parents on services and resources available for children in the community.

Dr. Blechman attended Yale University and Medical College of Virginia. He has been married to his wife Rachel since 1985 and is the father of four children, three of whom call South Florida home.

This community owes Dr. Blechman a debt of gratitude and he is to be commended for his devotion and commitment to children's causes.

**ACTION PROPOSED BY
DR. MARTA PÉREZ WURTZ:**

That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, approve Resolution No. 16-049 of The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, honoring Dr. Wil Blechman.

**RESOLUTION NO. 16-049
OF THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA,
HONORING DR. WIL BLECHMAN**

WHEREAS, Dr. Wil Blechman has been a distinguished member of the South Florida community for many years and has dedicated his life to improving the lives of children; and

WHEREAS, as president of Kiwanis International's worldwide clubs, Dr. Blechman introduced a service program for club members centering on young children. Dr. Blechman embarked on research into early childhood development and the factors that play a critical role like early intervention for at-risk children; and

WHEREAS, thanks to Dr. Blechman's efforts, Kiwanis Clubs participate in community service projects aimed at improving the lives of young children through programs involving maternal and child health, child care and development, and parent education; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Blechman has gained national recognition for his expertise in early childhood development and has traveled the country as lecturer and speaker. He holds positions with prestigious organizations such as the Lawton Chiles Foundation, the Children's Forum, and was previously vice-chair of The Children's Trust; and

WHEREAS, he also served as an advisor for the United Way Center for Excellence in Early Education when it opened in 2007 and currently chairs the Center's health subcommittee. His latest endeavor is the Better Beginnings Baby Fair, a joint collaboration between the United Way, Kiwanis and the University of Florida Extension Services, which serves to inform parents on services and resources available for children in the community; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Blechman attended Yale University and Medical College of Virginia. He has been married to his wife Rachel since 1985 and is the father of four children, three of whom call South Florida home; and

WHEREAS, this community owes Dr. Blechman a debt of gratitude and he is to be commended for his devotion and commitment to children's causes.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, THAT:

The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, approve Resolution No. 16-049 of The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, honoring Dr. Wil Blechman.

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

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

THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA

CHAIR

ATTEST:

Secretary