

Dr. Dorothy Bendross-Mindingall, Vice Chair

**SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION NO. 16-081
OF THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY,
FLORIDA, RECOGNIZING THE IRIE FOUNDATION**

**COMMITTEE: PERSONNEL SERVICES AND STUDENT AND SCHOOL
SUPPORT**

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

The Irie Foundation was founded five years ago by “DJ Irie” to improve the lives of South Florida youth through education and extracurricular activities with an emphasis on the arts. The ultimate goal is to increase graduation rates and expose children to opportunities that they otherwise would not have been able to experience. The foundation mentors middle school students by encouraging them to stay in the program through their high school years where they will eventually receive scholarships to further their education.

Upon establishment, the Irie Foundation partnered with the Motivational Edge to create the Art of Creative Writing and Lyrical Expression program. In 2014, the Irie Foundation Allapattah Music and Literacy Center was created and has served more than 250 children in the Allapattah and Little Haiti neighborhoods by providing culturally relevant arts, academic and technology courses increasing their grades by 90 percent. That same year, the Irie Foundation Cultural Passport program was started for eighth-grade students. A year later, the Pen Pal initiative connected local eighth-grade students to communicate with their counterparts in South Africa to encourage philanthropic values. Additionally, 11 South Florida high school students have received Impact Scholarships worth more than \$84,000 and a car. The foundation’s latest endeavor is the Music and Learning Center, which provides at-risk students free music lessons.

DJ Irie and the Irie Foundation are to be commended for enriching the lives of South Florida youth while encouraging academic achievement and instilling a love for the arts and creativity.

ACTION PROPOSED BY

DR. DOROTHY BENDROSS-MINDINGALL: That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, approve Resolution No. 16-081 of The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, recognizing the Irie Foundation.

**Replacement
B-5**

**RESOLUTION NO. 16-081
OF THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA,
RECOGNIZING THE IRIE FOUNDATION**

WHEREAS, the Irie Foundation was founded five years ago by “DJ Irie” to improve the lives of South Florida youth through education and extracurricular activities with an emphasis on the arts. The ultimate goal is to increase graduation rates and expose children to opportunities that they otherwise would not have been able to experience; and

WHEREAS, the foundation mentors middle school students by encouraging them to stay in the program through their high school years where they will eventually receive scholarships to further their education; and

WHEREAS, upon establishment, the Irie Foundation partnered with the Motivational Edge to create the Art of Creative Writing and Lyrical Expression program. In 2014, the Irie Foundation Allapattah Music and Literacy Center was created and has served more than 250 children in the Allapattah and Little Haiti neighborhoods by providing culturally relevant arts, academic and technology courses increasing their grades by 90 percent; and

WHEREAS, that same year, the Irie Foundation Cultural Passport program was started for eighth-grade students. A year later, the Pen Pal initiative connected local eighth-grade students to communicate with their counterparts in South Africa to encourage philanthropic values. Additionally, 11 South Florida high school students have received Impact Scholarships worth more than \$84,000 and a car. The foundation’s latest endeavor is the Music and Learning Center, which provides at-risk students free music lessons; and

WHEREAS, DJ Irie and the Irie Foundation are to be commended for enriching the lives of South Florida youth while encouraging academic achievement and instilling a love for the arts and creativity.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, approve Resolution No. 16-081 of The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, recognizing the Irie Foundation.

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

Presented this tenth day of August, A.D. 2016

THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA

CHAIR

ATTEST:

Secretary