

Dr. Martin Karp, Board Member

**SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION NO. 16-104 OF  
THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA,  
RECOGNIZING M. GARY NEUMAN**

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

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

New York Times best-selling author and Miami Beach resident M. Gary Neuman is a psychotherapist, rabbi, and author of seven books on the topics of marriage and divorce. There are over 1 million copies of his books in print. He is the creator of Neuman Method's Creating Your Best Marriage video program.

Gary developed The Sandcastles Program™, which is a group experience for children impacted by divorce that is mandated in many divorce courts. Over 300,000 children have completed this Program internationally. The Sandcastles Program™ is a three-and-a-half-hour, onetime group session for children of divorce between the ages of six and 17.

The program was first instituted in Miami-Dade County, Florida, where it is now mandatory. In participating counties, no final divorce decree will be granted to any couple whose minor children do not participate in The Sandcastles Program™.

As a result of meeting with peers who are going through a similar experience, children usually emerge with a newfound sense of confidence, hope, and community. They realize they are not alone, and that it is normal to feel anxious, angry, sad, and confused.

He has appeared over 50 times on the Today show, a dozen times on the Oprah Winfrey and has appeared on NBC Dateline, the Katie Couric show, Steve Harvey, NPR and The View. Mr. Neuman and his work have been featured in People, Time, Parents, Parenting, Cosmo, Redbook, Oprah as well as in newspapers including the Chicago Tribune, Los Angeles Times, Miami Herald, and Wall Street Journal.

Oprah Winfrey said, "Gary is one of the best psychotherapists in the world." M. Gary Neuman is to be commended for the development of and his commitment to The Sandcastles Program™, while enhancing the lives of the youth in Miami-Dade County.

**ACTION PROPOSED BY  
DR. MARTIN KARP:**

That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, approve Resolution No. 16-104 of the School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, recognizing M. Gary Neuman.

**RESOLUTION NO. 16-104  
OF THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA,  
RECOGNIZING M. GARY NEUMAN SCHOOLS**

**WHEREAS**, M. Gary Neuman developed The Sandcastles Program™, a group experience for children of divorce mandated in many divorce courts. Over 300,000 children have completed the Program internationally; and

**WHEREAS**, The Sandcastles Program™ is a three-and-a-half-hour, onetime group session for children of divorce between the ages of six and 17. The last half hour includes the children's parents and focuses on improving communication between them; and

**WHEREAS**, the Program was first instituted in Miami-Dade County, Florida, and is now mandatory there and in over a dozen other jurisdictions throughout the country. In these counties, no final divorce decree will be granted to any couple whose minor children do not participate in The Sandcastles Program™; and

**WHEREAS**, as a result of meeting with peers who are going through a similar experience, children usually emerge with a newfound sense of confidence, hope, and community. They realize that they are not alone, that it is normal to feel anxious, angry, sad, and confused; and

**WHEREAS**, the Program uses a range of innovated techniques designed to help children: develop self-expression and problem-solving skills, learn appropriate means of expressing anger and other intense emotions, reach a better understanding of the reality of divorce, recognize their own unique qualities and strengths; and

**WHEREAS**, each child receives an age-appropriate workbook, which he or she fills out anonymously and children are invited to draw pictures, write poems, compose letters to their parents, answer questions about their divorce experience, and more. In addition to writing and drawing, the participants are guided in such activities as role-playing, discussion, and interviewing fellow group members. In the last half-hour, parents meet with their children and learn techniques for interacting and expressing their feelings about divorce. At the end of each session, participants complete a written evaluation of their Sandcastles experience, as do their parents, in a follow-up questionnaire completed afterward.

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

The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, approve Resolution No. 16-104 of The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida recognizing M. Gary Neuman.

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

**Presented this twenty-third day of November, A.D. 2016**

**THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA**

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CHAIR

ATTEST:

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Secretary