

Dr. Lawrence Feldman, Chair

SUBJECT: REQUEST APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION NO. 17-010 OF THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA, RECOGNIZING FRANK C. MARTIN K-8 CENTER AND MIAMI PALMETTO SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL AS NATIONAL PTA SCHOOL OF EXCELLENCE AWARD RECIPIENTS

COMMITTEE: PERSONNEL SERVICES AND STUDENT AND SCHOOL SUPPORT

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

The National PTA School of Excellence is a recognition program that supports partnerships between PTA/PTSA's and school communities with the goal of enhancing the educational experience and well-being for all students and families. National PTA Schools of Excellence are committed to making families feel welcomed and working with the school to support continuous improvement. The school community, consisting of staff, administrative leaders, and the PTSA, must work collaboratively and commit to achieving the PTA's National Standards for Family-School Partnerships. These research-based standards were developed to reflect best practices supporting student achievement:

- Welcoming all Families into the School Community
- Communicating Effectively
- Supporting Student Success
- Speaking Up for Every Child
- Sharing Power
- Collaborating with Community

The school community engages in a site survey to gauge perception of family engagement. The survey, which is reviewed by the national PTSA, generates customized recommendations, training and hands on coaching to help the school achieve the standards. Schools work throughout the year to achieve each standard and document practices that support their endeavors. The school community must, once more, engage in feedback through a second survey. The School of Excellence designation is achieved when families' perceptions of the school demonstrates that the PTSA and school have engaged in a high level of family engagement or when they have made a substantive improvement in families' perceptions.

This year, Frank C. Martin K-8 Center and Miami Palmetto Senior High School have the distinct honor of achieving the PTA School of Excellence designation. These schools have exemplified the dedication and spirit necessary to engage in collaborative self-improvement. Their efforts and work motivated by the desire to enhance the education and well-being of all the students and families they serve. They are to be commended for their commitment to shared decision-making and to the resulting school-site enhancements in programs and policies and family engagement.

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

That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida approve Resolution No. 17-010 of The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, recognizing Frank C. Martin K-8 Center and Miami Palmetto Senior High School as PTA National Schools of Excellence.

**Replacement
B-5**

(

(

(

RESOLUTION NO. 17-010
OF THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA,
RECOGNIZING FRANK C. MARTIN K-8 CENTER AND MIAMI PALMETTO SENIOR HIGH
SCHOOL AS NATIONAL PTA SCHOOLS OF EXCELLENCE

WHEREAS, the National PTA School of Excellence is a recognition program that supports partnerships between PTA/PTSA's and school communities with the goal of enhancing the educational experience and well-being for all students and families. National PTA Schools of Excellence are committed to achieving the PTA's National Standards for Family-School Partnerships; and

WHEREAS, Frank C. Martin K-8 Center PTSA past President Christa Dotson Dean, President Anita Marlo, and School Principal Felicia Joseph engaged new and existing volunteers to work tirelessly on a campaign to make the school more than just a place children learn. Through strong leadership, students, families, and community rose to the challenge of ensuring success both in the classroom and community. The Frank C. Martin K-8 Center PTSA embraced the 'Welcoming All Families to the School Community' standard through their school-wide display of all flags representative of the countries in their diverse community; and

WHEREAS, effective communication was enhanced through community partnerships with the local pastors, commissioners and representatives and their dialogue expanded through a legislative blog featured on the school website. To further enhance communication efforts, Group Me and Remind 101 accounts were launched to insure that all families could be kept abreast of activities and local school news. PTSA membership has increased through the Mother/Son Dance, 'First Fridays' a networking opportunity for parents, Adopt-a-Road, student membership drive dances and the 'Real Men Join PTA' program, launched in Miami-Dade County; and

WHEREAS, the Miami Palmetto Senior High School PTSA led by past President Anna Hochkammer, President Dina Lara, School Principal Victoria Dobbs and with the unparalleled commitment and guidance of National School of Excellence Sub Committee Chair Dr. Nancy Lawther, became the only high school in Miami-Dade County, and one of only four high schools in the State of Florida, to have ever received the PTA National School of Excellence designation. The Miami Palmetto Senior High PTSA, long heralded as one of the strongest and most successful PTSA's in Miami-Dade, renewed their commitment to the standards through innovative programming such as the Palmetto Ambassadors. This unique initiative provides translation services, support and advice for parents and students who need assistance communicating with the schools administration or staff. Adult and student ambassadors are fluent in English and their specialty language. The PTSA enlists parent and student speakers to volunteer to mentor those that are not familiar with the American educational system. Multilingual "welcome" signs and a revamping of the website won Miami-Dade County Council recognition. Currently 12 languages are available; and

WHEREAS, through initiatives like the now-annual Twilight Color Run, in conjunction with the Village of Palmetto Bay, the PTSA endeavors to cement ties to local businesses and the surrounding areas to support fundraising efforts and awareness. The PTSA has developed and implemented several award-winning initiatives that improved family engagement, led to increased membership numbers and volunteer hours in excess of 8,000. This community-based school is evidence of what results when parental involvement and support remain consistent through the high school years.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, approve Resolution No. 17-010 of The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, recognizing Frank C. Martin K-8 Center and Miami Palmetto Senior High School as PTA National Schools of Excellence.

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

Presented this twenty-fifth day of January, A.D. 2017

THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA

CHAIR

ATTEST:

Secretary