Ms. Maria Teresa Rojas, Board Member

Co-Sponsor: Ms. Susie Castillo, Board Member } Added

SUBJECT: **ENDORSEMENT OF MARCH 2, 2017 AS READ ACROSS
                    AMERICA DAY**

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

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

Motivating children to read is an important factor in student achievement and creating lifelong successful readers. Research has shown that children who are motivated and spend more time reading do better in school. Furthermore, reading with a child helps to increase their vocabulary and improves their reading fluency and comprehension. As a result, it is imperative that we promote reading as the catalyst for our students' future academic success, their preparation for America's jobs of the future, and their ability to compete in a global economy.

To get kids excited about reading and encourage more adults to spend time reading with their children, the National Education Association (NEA) launched the first NEA's Read Across America day in 1998. At the national level, the association sponsors and spearheads the program with support from more than 50 national nonprofit and association partners. Locally, everyone-from schools to libraries to community centers to churches to hospitals to bookstores-is invited to host local events to celebrate and promote children's reading.

On March 2, 2017, NEA's Read Across America will mark nineteen years of celebrating reading and the 113th birthday of Dr. Seuss. Since its creation, educators, parents, caregivers and students have embraced Read Across America and helped to turn it into the largest celebration of reading.

Each year, in cities and towns across the nation, teachers, teenagers, librarians, politicians, actors, athletes, parents, grandparents, and others come together to develop Read Across America Day activities to bring the joy and excitement of reading to children of all ages. In that spirit, this item recommends the endorsement of March 2, 2017 as Read Across America Day, to be celebrated in schools across Miami-Dade County.

**ACTION PROPOSED BY
MS. MARIA TERESA ROJAS:**   That The School Board of Miami-Dade County,
                                Florida, endorse March 2, 2017 as Read
                                Across America Day.

**Revised
B-15**