

Dr. Dorothy Bendross-Mindingall, Board Member

**SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION NO. 17-015
OF THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY
FLORIDA, HONORING ZOE'S DOLLS**

COMMITTEE: ACADEMICS, EVALUATION, AND TECHNOLOGY

**LINK TO STRATEGIC
BLUEPRINT: SAFE, HEALTHY, AND SUPPORTIVE LEARNING
ENVIRONMENT**

Zoe Terry, 10 years old, is the CEO of Zoe's Dolls, a not-for-profit organization founded in Miami, Florida. She started Zoe's Dolls when she was just 5 years old. When she was in Kindergarten, she was bullied because of her skin color and hair texture. She was the only one in her class who looked like she did. She was also bullied because she was a bit slower riding the tricycle than other kids and because of her physical limitations. Once again Zoe was unmoved. She decided to do something about how this made her feel. She decided to act.

Zoe's mother, who had always instilled in her the importance of paying it forward and giving back, had asked her to give away one of her gifts to a child less fortunate. Zoe stated that she wanted to "start a company that gives free brown dolls to little brown girls in need at Christmas time." Zoe's reasoning for wanting to do this was two-fold. She wanted to give toys to little girls less fortunate than she was and she wanted to combat bullying letting little brown girls know that they are special, just the way they are.

This was the beginning of Zoe's Dolls. Since its inception, Zoe has given out approximately \$20,000 in dolls, donations, contest and free community events. She has impacted the lives of over 4,000 girls in South Florida, Georgia, Texas, Mississippi, Haiti and Africa. The newest chapters of Zoe's Dolls are now in Georgia, Mississippi and Texas.

Zoe has not stopped at dolls. Her organization has developed and runs programs aimed at empowering little girls and young ladies, to let each one know that her image is beautiful. Zoe is an only child. She enjoys hanging with her best friend Eryn and playing tennis. Zoe recently completed a book for her doll line and is in the early stages of building a for-profit company to manufacture dolls of color that can help sustain her charitable work.

ACTION PROPOSED BY

DR. BENDROSS-MINDINGALL: That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, approve Resolution No. 17-015 of The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, honoring Zoe's Dolls.

**RESOLUTION NO. 17-015
OF THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA,
HONORING ZOE'S DOLLS**

WHEREAS, Zoe Terry, 10 years old, is the CEO of Zoe's Dolls, a not-for-profit organization founded in Miami, Florida. She started Zoe's Dolls when she was just 5 years old. When she was in Kindergarten, she was bullied because of her skin color and hair texture. Ms. Terry was the only one in her class who looked like she did. She was also bullied because she was a bit slower riding the tricycle than other kids and because of her physical limitations. Once again Ms. Terry was unmoved. She decided to do something about how this made her feel. She decided to act.

WHEREAS, Zoe's mother, who had always instilled in her the importance of paying it forward and giving back, had asked her to give away one of her gifts to a child less fortunate. Zoe stated that she wanted to "start a company that gives free brown dolls to little brown girls in need at Christmas time." Zoe's reasoning for wanting to do this was two-fold. She wanted to give toys to little girls less fortunate than she was and she wanted to combat bullying letting little brown girls know that they are special, just the way they are.

WHEREAS, this was the beginning of Zoe's Dolls. Since its inception, Zoe has given out approximately \$20,000 in dolls, donations, contest and free community events. She has impacted the lives of over 4,000 girls in South Florida, Georgia, Texas, Mississippi, Haiti and Africa. The newest chapters of Zoe's Dolls are now in Georgia, Mississippi and Texas.

WHEREAS, Zoe has not stopped at dolls. Her organization has developed and runs programs aimed at empowering little girls and young ladies, to let each one know that her image is beautiful. Zoe is an only child. She enjoys hanging with her best friend Eryn and playing tennis. Zoe recently completed a book for her doll line and is in the early stages of building a for-profit company to manufacture dolls of color that can help sustain her charitable work.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, approve Resolution No. 17-015 of The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, honoring Zoe's Dolls.

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

Presented this fifteenth day of February, A.D. 2017

THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA

CHAIR

ATTEST:

Secretary