

Dr. Steve Gallon III, Board Member

Co-Sponsors: Dr. Dorothy Bendross-Mindingall, Board Member  
Ms. Maria Teresa Rojas, Board Member } Added

**SUBJECT: REQUEST APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION NO. 17-060 OF THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA, RECOGNIZING THE VIKING FREEDOM WRITERS AND FLORIDA FREEDOM WRITERS**

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

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

The Viking Freedom Writers Creative Writing Club began in the classroom of Ms. Precious Symonette, language arts teacher at Miami Norland Senior High School, where she inspired her students to use their voices to make a change in their community. Ms. Symonette was trained by Ms. Erin Gruwell, the educator of the original Freedom Writers from Long Beach, California. Ms. Symonette coined her students as the Viking Freedom Writers.

As the Viking Freedom Writers graduated from Miami Norland, many continued to hone their craft and formed the Florida Freedom Writers. These award-winning students were integral performers in the inaugural District 1 Black History Showcase presented in February this year. They have also established a championship legacy via various competitions including Louder Than a Bomb, The Dranoff 2 Piano Slam Competition, and the Theodore Gibson Oratorical contest.

Miami Norland Senior High School Principal Reginald Lee, Ms. Symonette and the talented Viking Freedom Writers and Florida Freedom Writers are to be commended for inspiring more young people to choose writing and poetry to showcase their creative prowess.

**ACTION PROPOSED BY DR. STEVE GALLON III:** That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, approve Resolution No. 17-060 of The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, recognizing the Viking Freedom Writers and Florida Freedom Writers.

**RESOLUTION NO. 17-060  
OF THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA, RECOGNIZING  
THE VIKING FREEDOM WRITERS AND FLORIDA FREEDOM WRITERS**

**WHEREAS**, the Viking Freedom Writers Creative Writing Club began in the classroom of Ms. Precious Symonette, language arts teacher at Miami Norland Senior High School, where she inspired her students to use their voices to make a change in their community; and

**WHEREAS**, Ms. Symonette was trained by Ms. Erin Gruwell, the educator of the original Freedom Writers from Long Beach, California. Ms. Symonette coined her students as the Viking Freedom Writers; and

**WHEREAS**, as the Viking Freedom Writers graduated from Miami Norland, many continued to hone their craft and formed the Florida Freedom Writers; and

**WHEREAS**, these award-winning students were integral performers in the inaugural District 1 Black History Showcase presented in February this year. They have also established a championship legacy via various competitions including Louder Than a Bomb, The Dranoff 2 Piano Slam Competition, and the Theodore Gibson Oratorical contest; and

**WHEREAS**, Miami Norland Senior High School Principal Reginald Lee, Ms. Symonette and the talented Viking Freedom Writers and Florida Freedom Writers are to be commended for inspiring more young people to choose writing and poetry to showcase their creative prowess.

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

The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, approve Resolution No. 17-060 of The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, recognizing the Viking Freedom Writers and Florida Freedom Writers.

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

**Presented this twenty-fourth day of May, A.D. 2017**

THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA

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CHAIR

ATTEST:

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Secretary