

Ms. Maria Teresa Rojas, Board Member

**SUBJECT: REQUEST APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION NO. 17-085 OF
THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY,
FLORIDA, RECOGNIZING MS. CAROL CORTES**

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

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

Women in educational leadership are quite aware of the importance of having the proper credentialing as evidenced by the preponderance of women now enrolled in and receiving education leadership degrees. However, there are also a number of categories which women in educational leadership positions are passionate about. These include the following: 1) preparedness; 2) hard work; 3) perseverance; 4) good people skills; 5) strong support systems; 6) personal integrity; 7) respect from peers; and 8) a strong belief in yourself. Furthermore, women in educational leadership positions always consider the impact their decisions may have on personal goals, family, and life itself. Ms. Carol Cortes is an example of a strong, passionate, and committed educational leader. She is highly respected as an educational leader and she is a believer and a courageous fighter.

Ms. Carol Cortes joined Miami-Dade County Public Schools in 1970 as a teacher at Charles R. Drew Junior High School. She became an assistant principal at Madison Junior High School in 1975; and in February 1980, she was appointed principal at Carol City Junior High School. In June 1983, Ms. Cortes was given the honor to open Hammocks Junior High School, a brand new school where she served as principal until 1985. In September 1985, she was promoted to Area Director in the South Central Area and became South Central Area Superintendent in 1987. From 1988 to 1996, Ms. Cortes served as Region IV Superintendent. In 1996, she was promoted to the position of Deputy Superintendent of School Operations, becoming the first Hispanic female in Miami-Dade County Public Schools to have been appointed Deputy Superintendent. In 1997, she started her tenure as Deputy Superintendent for Management and Accountability and from 2002 to 2005, Ms. Cortes served as Region Superintendent in various regions.

During her professional career, Ms. Cortes has served as Vice President and Recording Secretary of the Dade County Schools Administrators Association. She was a founding member of the Gender Equity Network and a Trustee of the Greater Miami Chamber of Commerce. She also served in the Executive Committee of the Women's Chamber of Commerce of Miami-Dade County. In 1995, she was awarded the Dade County Schools Administrator of the Year and in 1999, Ms. Cortes received the Cervantes Outstanding Educator Award from Nova Southeastern University. Ms. Cortes was the Vice-President of the Miami-Dade County Retired Educators Association and currently she is serving as President of the Association.

Ms. Cortes received her Bachelor of Arts Degree from the University of Miami, Coral Gables, Florida, with a major in Political and Educational Sciences. In 1974, she graduated from Florida International University (FIU), Miami, Florida, with a Masters of Science Degree in School Administration and Supervision, the first graduating class at FIU.

This item has been reviewed and approved by the School Board Attorney's office as to form and legal sufficiency.

**ACTION PROPOSED BY
MS. MARIA TERESA ROJAS:**

That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, approve Resolution No.17-085 of The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, recognizing Ms. Carol Cortes.

**RESOLUTION NO. 17-085
OF THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA,
RECOGNIZING MS. CAROL CORTES**

WHEREAS, Ms. Carol Cortes joined Miami-Dade County Public Schools in 1970 as a teacher at Charles R. Drew Junior High School. She became an assistant principal at Madison Junior High School in 1975; and

WHEREAS, in February 1980, she was assigned principal at Carol City Junior High School. In June 1983, Ms. Cortes was given the honor to open Hammocks Junior High School, a brand new school where she served as principal until 1985; and

WHEREAS, in September 1985, she was promoted to Area Director in the South Central Area and became South Central Area Superintendent in 1987. From 1988 to 1996, Ms. Cortes served as Region IV Superintendent; and

WHEREAS, in 1996, she was promoted to the position of Deputy Superintendent of School Operations becoming the first Hispanic female in Miami-Dade County Public Schools to have been appointed Deputy Superintendent. In 1997, she started her tenure as Deputy Superintendent for Management and Accountability and from 2002 to 2005, Ms. Cortes served as Region Superintendent in various regions; and

WHEREAS, during her professional career, Ms. Cortes has served as Vice President and Recording Secretary of the Dade County Schools Administrators Association. She was a founding member of the Gender Equity Network and a Trustee of the Greater Miami Chamber of Commerce. She also served in the Executive Committee of the Women's Chamber of Commerce of Miami-Dade County. In 1995, she was awarded the Dade County Schools Administrator of the Year and in 1999, Ms. Cortes received the Cervantes Outstanding Educator Award from Nova Southeastern University. Ms. Cortes was the Vice-President of the Miami-Dade County Retired Educators Association and currently she is serving as President of the Association; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Cortes received her Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of Miami, Coral Gables, Florida, with a major in Political and Educational Sciences. In 1974, she graduated from Florida International University (FIU), Miami, Florida, with a Masters of Science Degree in School Administration and Supervision, the first graduating class at FIU.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, approve Resolution No. 17-085 of The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, recognizing Ms. Carol Cortes.

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

Presented this ninth day of August, A. D. 2017

THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA

CHAIR

ATTEST:

Secretary