

Dr. Dorothy Bendross-Mindingall, Board Member

**SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION NO. 17-089 OF THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA, RECOGNIZING GIRL POWER, INC.**

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

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

Established in 2000 by the World Literacy crusade (WLC) of Florida - an international, non-profit, community literacy program - Girl Power encourages young girls to build confidence, competence and pride within themselves. Girl Power strives to empower girls and their families to succeed in order to protect, restore and preserve the family unit. Girl Power's objectives include: preventing/reduce indoor/outdoor suspension, and truancy among at-risk school girls; prevent/reduce the number of young girls entering the juvenile justice system; improving the overall academic performance; and preparing young girls to lead a successful life and reach their full potential.

Girl Power takes the needs and desires of every girl seriously so that the provided programs and activities will be geared towards fostering healthy, smart, strong and active girls. Girl Power programs are also designed to promote and foster positive social skills and behavior as well as improve academic performance in adolescent girls ages 11 to 17. The programs include Girls Rock After-School Program, Post Arrest Diversion Program, Girls' Choir of Miami, STEAM Summer Camp, M-DCPS Alternative to Outdoor Suspension Program, and Girl Talk Intervention Program. The activities and services include tutoring, life skills, yoga, meditation, journal writing, art, dance, etiquette, conflict resolution & reconciliation, service learning projects, college and heritage tours, individual and group therapy and Parent Support Groups.

Girl Power also provide workshops and materials that inform girls about the risks and consequences associated with substance abuse, low self-esteem, lack of education and more. Girl Power also provides short and long term residential housing for approximately 20 girls. The standard length of stay is flexible. All living necessities are provided for the residents at no charge. In house services include: all meals, toiletries, clothing, laundry and basic living expenses as needed. Long term housing is based on a collective decision by the staff, social workers, and other agencies that must identify the available options for either private living or publicly supported housing programs.

The Girl Power organization offers a comprehensive and safe environment for young girls, thus helping reduce the number of young women entering the juvenile justice system, as well as early failure in schools. Girl Power has helped to provide a most critical service to key demographics in our community.

**ACTION PROPOSED BY**

**DR. DOROTHY BENDROSS-MINDINGALL:** That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, approve Resolution No. 17-089 of The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, recognizing Girl Power, Inc.

**RESOLUTION NO. 17-089  
OF THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA,  
RECOGNIZING GIRL POWER, INC.**

**WHEREAS**, the mission of Girl Power is to empower girls and their families to succeed in order to protect, restore and preserve the family unit. Girl Power provides day and after-school social change programs designed to promote and foster positive social skills and behavior as well as improve academic performance in adolescent girls ages 11 to 17; and

**WHEREAS**, Girl Power's objectives include: preventing/reduce indoor/outdoor suspension, and truancy among at-risk school girls; prevent/reduce the number of young girls entering the juvenile justice system; improving the overall academic performance; and preparing young girls to lead a successful life and reach their full potential; and

**WHEREAS**, Girl Power programs include Girls Rock After-School Program, Post Arrest Diversion Program, Girls' Choir of Miami, STEAM Summer Camp, M-DCPS Alternative to Outdoor Suspension Program, and Girl Talk Intervention Program. The activities and services include tutoring, life skills, yoga, meditation, journal writing, art, dance, etiquette, conflict resolution & reconciliation, service learning projects, college and heritage tours, individual and group therapy and Parent Support Groups; and

**WHEREAS**, Girl Power also provides short and long term residential housing for approximately 20 girls. The standard length of stay is flexible. All living necessities are provided for the residents at no charge. In house services include: all meals, toiletries, clothing, laundry and basic living expenses as needed. Long term housing is based on a collective decision by the staff, social workers, and other agencies that must identify the available options for either private living or publicly supported housing programs; and

**WHEREAS**, the Girl Power organization offers a comprehensive and safe environment for young girls, thus helping reduce the number of young women entering the juvenile justice system, as well as early failure in schools. Girl Power has helped to provide a most critical service to key demographics in our community.

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

The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, approve Resolution No. 17-089 of The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, recognizing Girl Power, Inc.

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

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CHAIR

ATTEST:

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Secretary