

Dr. Dorothy Bendross-Mindingall, Board Member

**SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION NO. 17-110 OF THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA, RECOGNIZING MRS. BESSIE LEGRANT**

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

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

Bessie Legrant, a 44-year veteran of the Miami-Dade County Public School System has worked at Miami Central Senior High School for her entire tenure. Ms. Legrant's character epitomizes dedication and commitment. Her volunteerism and affiliations demonstrate her willingness to serve, mold characters, and contribute to her community.

After graduation from High School in Mt. Vernon, Georgia, she earned her Bachelor of Science Degree at Fort Valley State College in Fort Valley, GA and received her Master of Science degree from Florida International University, Miami, FL. Subsequently, she has received numerous hours of instruction through professional development, workshops, and conferences. Her desire to be an educator stems from the knowledge that "proper attention to the students that we teach will lead them to unlock the doors to life's mysteries, write the books to stimulate the present, and future generations, patent the inventions to make day to day existence more efficient, and create the art to leave us in awe."

Ms. Legrant has taught English, grades 9-11, served as a Reading Resource Teacher for two years, and the Language Arts Department Chair from 1982-1987. She became the school's Director of Student Activities in 1987. For ten summers, beginning in 1982, she was one of six high school teachers selected to implement the Dade County Public Schools/Florida International University Partners in Progress Program. The program designed and implemented by the teachers served to increase the number of minority students enrolled at FIU by enhancement of college board scores during six weeks of concentration on test-taking skills, vocabulary building, reading comprehension, and college-level math.

Since 1992, Ms. Legrant has served as the Chair of Miami Central's accreditation team which works to earn and to maintain accreditation from the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS) by meeting the Advanced Education standards for quality schools. Her additional duties included representing the school on the administrative committee for selection of candidates to fill the position of principal and assistant principals; planning and assisting in the dedication of the Guinyard-Jacobs Science Building, the Carrie P. Meek NASA SEEMA Lab, the groundbreaking for the new Central, and the John Rolle Track Complex.

She has been Miami Central's Silver Knight Coordinator, sponsored the Junior Varsity and Varsity Cheerleaders, the Interclub-Council, freshmen, sophomore, and junior classes, the Student Government Association, and the Student Support Foundation. She has been a member and held office in Central's Parent, Teacher, Student Association, a member of the Educational Excellence School Advisory Council, and District Community Assessment Team. Her work has extended to the sponsorship of annual student leadership conferences and production of numbers commemorative programs, pageants, and shows in the school and in the community.

Her 30-year membership in the United Teachers of Dade, the American Federation of Teachers, and the National Education Association, reveal her desire to enhance working conditions not only for educators, but for all in the workforce. She has been a member of the Dynamic Women's Democratic Club of Miami-Dade County, Gamma Alpha Chapter of Iota Phi Lambda Sorority, Inc., National Association of Student Activities Advisers, National Council of Teachers of English, National Brotherhood of Skiers, Sunshine Slopers, Florida Council PTA/PTSA and Miami-Dade Council PTA/PTSA, and EESAC.

Ms. Legrant's years of service has garnered her recognition from several organizations including: the American Red Cross, United Way of Miami-Dade County, Florida International University, Miami Magnets, and Miami-Dade County Office of the Mayor and the Board of County Commissioners.

**ACTION PROPOSED BY**

**DR. DOROTHY BENDROSS-MINDINGALL:**

That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, approve Resolution No. 17-110 of The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, recognizing Bessie Legrant for her outstanding career as an educator in M-DCPS.

**RESOLUTION NO. 17-110  
OF THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA,  
RECOGNIZING MS. BESSIE LEGRANT**

**WHEREAS**, Bessie Legrant, a 44-year veteran of the Miami-Dade County Public School System has worked at Miami Central Senior High School for her entire tenure. Ms. Legrant's character epitomizes dedication and commitment. Her volunteerism and affiliations demonstrate her willingness to serve, mold characters, and contribute to her community; and

**WHEREAS**, after graduation from high school in Mt. Vernon, Georgia, she earned her Bachelor's Degree at Fort Valley State College in Fort Valley, Georgia and received her Master's Degree from Florida International University. Her desire to be an educator stems from the knowledge that "proper attention to the students that we teach will lead them to unlock the doors to life's mysteries, write the books to stimulate the present and future generations, patent the inventions to make day to day existence more efficient, and create the art to leave us in awe; and

**WHEREAS**, Ms. Legrant served the school in various capacities including, English teacher, Reading Resource teacher, Language Arts Department Chair, Silver Knight Coordinator, Junior Varsity and Varsity cheerleaders sponsor and Director of Student Activities. For 10 summers, she was one of six high school teachers selected to implement the Dade County Public Schools/Florida International University Partners in Progress Program, which was designed and implemented by the teachers to increase the number of minority students enrolled at FIU; and

**WHEREAS**, since 1992, Ms. Legrant has served as the Chair of Miami Central's accreditation team, which works to earn and to maintain accreditation from the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Her additional duties included representing the school on the administrative committee for selection of candidates to fill the position of principal and assistant principals; planning and assisting in the dedication of the Guinyard-Jacobs Science Building, the Carrie P. Meek NASA SEEMA Lab, the groundbreaking for the new Central, and the John Rolle Track Complex; and

**WHEREAS**, she has been active at the school through its Parent, Teacher, Student Association (PTSA) as well as the District's Educational Excellence School Advisory Council, and District Community Assessment Team; and

**WHEREAS**, she was a member of United Teachers of Dade, the American Federation of Teachers, and the National Education Association for 30 years, She has been a member of the Dynamic Women's Democratic Club of Miami-Dade County, Gamma Alpha Chapter of Iota Phi Lambda Sorority, Inc., National Association of Student Activities Advisers, National Council of Teachers of English, National Brotherhood of Skiers, Sunshine Slopers, Florida Council PTA/PTSA and Miami-Dade Council PTA/PTSA; and

**WHEREAS**, Ms. Legrant has been recognized over the years by the American Red Cross, United Way of Miami-Dade County, Florida International University, Miami Magnets, and Miami-Dade County Office of the Mayor and the Board of County Commissioners.

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

The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, approve Resolution No. 17-110 of The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, recognizing Bessie Legrant.

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

**Presented this fifteenth day of November, A.D. 2017**

THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA

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CHAIR

ATTEST:

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Secretary