

Ms. Maria Teresa Rojas, Board Member

Co-Sponsors: Dr. Lawrence S. Feldman, Chair
Dr. Marta Pérez, Vice Chair
Dr. Dorothy Bendross-Mindingall, Board Member
Ms. Susie Castillo, Board Member
Dr. Steve Gallon III, Board Member
Ms. Perla T. Hantman, Board Member
Dr. Martin Karp, Board Member
Ms. Lubby Navarro, Board Member

} Added

SUBJECT: REQUEST APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION NO. 17-108 OF THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA, RECOGNIZING MS. VIRGINIA A. JACKO

COMMITTEE: INNOVATION, GOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS, AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

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

Ms. Virginia A. Jacko, President and CEO of the Miami Lighthouse for the Blind and Visually Impaired, is a blind visionary in a sighted world, who attributes her continuing success as an experienced financial executive to her vocational rehabilitation at Miami Lighthouse.

During her tenure, the number of clients has increased from fewer than 500 in 2004 to over 15,000 today. A variety of innovative new programs in Braille and technology literacy, adult basic education, GED, ESOL, job readiness, music, ceramic arts, year-round programming for blind and visually impaired schoolchildren, pre-kindergartens for blind and visually impaired three- and four-year olds, and eye wellness services to schoolchildren throughout the State of Florida have been implemented.

The Miami Lighthouse is recognized as a national Center of Excellence through professional publications and academic presentations. Miami Lighthouse ranks among the elite 1% of U.S. non-profits having earned nine consecutive 4-star ratings from Charity Navigator, the nation's premier independent non-profit evaluator. Receiving such a distinction reflects sound fiscal management, responsible use of donor dollars, and financial strength.

One of Ms. Jacko's greatest accomplishments is the Lighthouse Learning Center for Children™. In collaboration with Miami-Dade County Public Schools and the Early Learning Coalition, the Lighthouse Learning Center offers an inclusion Pre-K program for three- and four-year-old children (50% visually impaired and 50% typically developing sighted children). Using the evidence-based High Scope Curriculum, blind or visually impaired students are supported in a print/braille rich environment. Miami Lighthouse is the first vision rehabilitation educational institute in the U.S. using the international High Scope Curriculum, and this is the first time that the High Scope has been applied to blind learners in a fully inclusive model.

Ms. Jacko writes about and is a sought-after guest speaker for business groups, chambers of commerce, and national conferences on topics such as board governance, non-profit accounting and accessibility for the blind and visually impaired. She holds a Bachelor of Business Administration Degree from Loyola University (Chicago) and a Master of Science Degree from Purdue University. In 2012 she was named Distinguished Alumna by the Purdue College of Health and Human Sciences and the HHS Alumni Association, Purdue University. She was named to the South Florida Business Journal 2016 class of Influential Businesswomen.

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.17-108 of The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, recognizing Ms. Virginia A. Jacko.

**RESOLUTION NO. 17-108
OF THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA,
RECOGNIZING MS. VIRGINIA A. JACKO**

WHEREAS, Ms. Virginia A. Jacko, President and CEO of the Miami Lighthouse for the Blind and Visually Impaired, is a blind visionary in a sighted world, who attributes her continuing success as an experienced financial executive to her vocational rehabilitation at Miami Lighthouse; and

WHEREAS, during her tenure, the number of program participants at Miami Lighthouse has increased from fewer than 500 in 2004 to over 15,000 today; and

WHEREAS, the Miami Lighthouse ranks among the elite 1% of U.S. nonprofits having earned nine consecutive 4-star ratings from Charity Navigator, the nation's premier independent nonprofit evaluator; and

WHEREAS, one of Ms. Jacko's greatest accomplishments is the Lighthouse Learning Center for Children™. In collaboration with Miami-Dade County Public Schools and the Early Learning Coalition, the Lighthouse Learning Center offers an inclusion Pre-K program for three- and four-year-old children (50% visually impaired and 50% typically developing sighted children); and

WHEREAS, Ms. Jacko holds a Bachelor of Business Administration Degree from Loyola University (Chicago) and a Master of Science Degree from Purdue University. In 2012 she was named Distinguished Alumna by the Purdue College of Health and Human Sciences and the HHS Alumni Association, Purdue University. She was named to the South Florida Business Journal 2016 class of Influential Businesswomen.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, approve Resolution No. 17-108 of The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, recognizing Ms. Virginia A. Jacko.

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

CHAIR

ATTEST:

Secretary