

Dr. Dorothy Bendross-Mindingall, Board Member

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SUBJECT: SCHOOL BOARD ENDORSEMENT RECOGNIZING NOVEMBER AS HUNGER AND HOMELESSNESS AWARENESS MONTH THROUGHOUT MIAMI-DADE SCHOOLS

COMMITTEE: INNOVATION, GOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS, & COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

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

National Hunger & Homelessness Awareness Week (HHAW) which is held each year the week before Thanksgiving, will take place during the week of November 11-19. This is a time for us all to start to think about what we are thankful for, a perfect time to share our compassion with our neighbors who are experiencing homelessness, and work toward a world where no one has to experience hunger or homelessness.

The face of homelessness is evolving and many of those identified as being homeless are now children. It should be our collective goal to provide meaningful assistance and awareness to those children and families who should not be forgotten. According to the Miami-Dade County Homeless Trust, as of January 2017, there were 3,847 individuals identified as homeless within the county, of which almost 25% are children under the age of 18. These children are either in an emergency shelter (temporary care) or transitional shelter (primary care).

Miami-Dade County Public Schools prides itself and rightfully so, regarding the work and partnerships to ensure children are not hungry. It is in our power to add to the struggle to end homelessness and to educate our community members. By promoting year-long awareness of homelessness and especially hunger during this holiday season, and by changing the conversation about stereotypes, improve policy, help service providers, and so much more, we hope to foster a community culture built on compassion and empathy, letting children know despite circumstances or obstacles, there is an informed community that cares.

ACTION PROPOSED BY

DR. DOROTHY BENDROSS-MINDINGALL: That The School Board of Miami-Dade County Florida, authorize the Superintendent to endorse November as Hunger and Homelessness Awareness Month.