

Dr. Steve Gallon III, Board Member

SUBJECT: REQUEST APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION NO. 18-011 OF THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA, RECOGNIZING DR. GEORGE M. KOONCE, JR.

COMMITTEE: PERSONNEL, STUDENT, SCHOOL & COMMUNITY SUPPORT

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

A native of Donalsonville, Georgia, Dr. George M. Koonce, Jr. graduated with honors from Seminole County High School in 1959. As George grew and developed in his native home, he attended segregated schools where his sense of family and community continued to flourish. Hence, charged with the goal of educational excellence, George immediately enrolled in Fort Valley State College to pursue a degree in French. He held numerous leadership positions, most notably, student body president. He graduated with honors, receiving a Bachelor of Science Degree in French in 1963.

After receiving his first collegiate degree, George accepted his first teaching assignment at Washington High School in Blakely, Georgia. He was fortunate to receive opportunities to study abroad in Europe for two summers. The first summer abroad was spent at the University of Toulouse in Toulouse, France and his second summer experience was at Institute Catholique in Paris, France. George's successful experiences in academia and in the workplace were catalysts that created an even stronger desire to achieve for the collective benefit of his family, friends and community. To that end, in 1968, five years after graduating from Fort Valley State College, he successfully completed coursework for a Master's Degree in French from Indiana University.

His noticeably superior collegiate studies resulted in him being awarded an Education Professional Development Act fellowship to study at the University of Miami where he later earned a second Master's Degree in Education with emphasis in School Administration. Continuing his pursuit of excellence, Koonce persisted in his post graduate studies at the University of Miami and was awarded a Doctor of Education Degree in 1976.

Dr. Koonce began his first teaching assignment at the historical administrative birth site, Miami Springs Senior High School as a French teacher. In 1971, three years later he became an assistant principal at the school.

After a long and varied career and many opportunities over a span of 41 years, he wore many different hats: teacher, assistant principal, principal, school site administrator, district director, region superintendent, and associate superintendent. In each of these roles, he remained focused and committed to the educational goals of his district and the needs of the students in which he served. After a career spanning 41 years, Dr. Koonce is retired.

**ACTION PROPOSED BY
DR. STEVE GALLON III:**

That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, approve Resolution No. 18-011 of The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, recognizing Dr. George M. Koonce, Jr.

**RESOLUTION NO. 18-011
OF THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA,
RECOGNIZING DR. GEORGE M. KOONCE, JR.**

WHEREAS, a native of Donalsonville, Georgia, Dr. George M. Koonce, Jr. graduated with honors from Seminole County High School in 1959. As George grew and developed in his native home, he attended segregated schools where his sense of family and community continued to flourish. Hence, charged with the goal of educational excellence, George immediately enrolled in Fort Valley State College to pursue a degree in French. He held numerous leadership positions, most notably, student body president. He graduated with honors, receiving a Bachelor of Science Degree in French in 1963; and

WHEREAS, after receiving his first collegiate degree, George accepted his first teaching assignment at Washington High School in Blakely, Georgia. He was fortunate to receive opportunities to study abroad in Europe for two summers. The first summer abroad was spent at the University of Toulouse in Toulouse, France and his second summer experience was at Institute Catholique in Paris, France. George's successful experiences in academia and in the workplace were catalysts that created an even stronger desire to achieve for the collective benefit of his family, friends and community. To that end, in 1968, five years after graduating from Fort Valley State College, he successfully completed coursework for a Master's Degree in French from Indiana University; and

WHEREAS, his noticeably superior collegiate studies resulted in him being awarded an Education Professional Development Act fellowship to study at the University of Miami where he later earned a second Master's Degree in Education with emphasis in School Administration. Continuing his pursuit of excellence, Koonce persisted in his post graduate studies at the University of Miami and was awarded a Doctor of Education Degree in 1976.; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Koonce began his first teaching assignment at the historical administrative birth site, Miami Springs Senior High School as a French teacher. In 1971, three years later he became an assistant principal at the school; and

WHEREAS, after a long and varied career and many opportunities over a span of 41 years, he wore many different hats: teacher, assistant principal, principal, school site administrator, district director, region superintendent, and associate superintendent. In each of these roles, he remained focused and committed to the educational goals of his district and the needs of the students in which he served. After a career spanning 41 years, Dr. Koonce is retired.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, approve Resolution No. 18-011 of The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, recognizing Dr. George M. Koonce, Jr. for his years of service and continued support of Miami-Dade County Public Schools and the community.

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

Presented this twenty-first day of February, A.D. 2018

THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA

CHAIR

ATTEST:

Secretary