

Dr. Lawrence S. Feldman, Board Member

**SUBJECT: REQUEST APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION NO. 19-022 OF THE
SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA,
RECOGNIZING THE 2020 FRANCISCO R. WALKER TEACHER
OF THE YEAR AND THE ROOKIE TEACHER OF THE YEAR**

COMMITTEE: PERSONNEL, STUDENT, SCHOOL & COMMUNITY SUPPORT

LINK TO STRATEGIC

BLUEPRINT: HIGHLY EFFECTIVE TEACHERS, LEADERS AND STAFF

The Teacher of the Year program is a joint venture between The United Teachers of Dade (UTD), the Miami-Dade County Council of PTAs/PTSAs and Miami-Dade County Public Schools that recognizes excellence in teaching. The Francisco R. Walker Teacher of the Year Award recipient is selected from more than 19,000 Miami-Dade County teachers who meet criteria established by the Florida Department of Education. The award is named in memory of Francisco R. Walker, a teacher at Miami Edison Middle School who lost his life in the line of duty on school property. The Rookie Teacher of the Year award honors a rookie teacher who is new to teaching and is a first, second, or third year educator. This year's awards ceremony was held on January 31, 2019 at the DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel Miami Airport & Convention Center. Mr. Oliver Diez of Palmetto Elementary School was selected as the 2020 Francisco R. Walker Teacher of the Year and Ms. Laurie Haim of Pinecrest Elementary School was selected as the 2019 Rookie Teacher of the Year.

Oliver Diez was born and raised Miami, Florida where he graduated from Hialeah Miami Lakes Senior High School. He earned his Bachelor and Master's Degrees in Music Education from Florida International University and is currently in his 20th year at Palmetto Elementary, where he teaches General Music. In 1999, he was selected as Palmetto Elementary's Rookie Teacher of the Year and later, in 2002, as their Teacher of the Year. In January, he was selected as the 2020 Francisco R. Walker Miami-Dade County Public Schools Teacher of the Year.

Mr. Diez has been nominated twice for the Grammy Music Educator Award and has been a 'Who's Who in Education' nominee. He also received a proclamation from the Village of Pinecrest declaring June 7th, 2011 as 'Oliver Diez Day'. Mr. Diez has established an active music program at Palmetto Elementary, consisting of a Beginning Band, Concert Band, Jazz Combo, a Drumline, a Chorus, and two levels of String Orchestra. All of these extra-curricular programs are accomplished before and after school hours. His fourth and fifth grade students have chosen for both All-State Elementary Chorus and All-State Orff Ensemble (2006-2019), as well as for Superintendent's Honors Festival. His groups have received 1st and 2nd place along with Choral/ Instrumental Grand Champions at Orlando's Music U.S.A. Festival and have also received various Superior ratings. In 2017, his elementary concert band performed alongside the F.I.U. Wind Ensemble.

**Replacement
B-5**

In March of 2019, his concert band, along with his 4th-5th grade chorus members, will perform at the world-famous Carnegie Hall in New York City. His students' community performances include the Annual "Relay for Life" at Baptist Hospital, Palmetto Bay, and Village of Pinecrest, Miami Marlins games, Miami Heat games, various Church festivals from our community, SoMi Artwalk performances at Sunset Place, Neiman Marcus breakfast with Santa, The Falls Holiday Festival, the Community Foundation Winter Concert and "Night of Lights" at Pinecrest Gardens. His groups have also played alongside the Miami Palmetto Senior High and Palmetto Middle School band programs. His former students have gone on to achieve countless recognitions at national musical competitions and invitations to participate prestigious events.

Mr. Diez is actively a member of the Miami Wind Symphony, where he plays Baritone Saxophone and has made over fifty appearances with the 501st Legion, an international fan-based organization dedicated to the construction and wearing of screen accurate replicas of Star Wars characters for the purpose of attending charity events, fundraisers, hospitals, schools, and movie premieres to put smiles on fans of all ages. Mr. Diez has been married for 11 years to his wife Alina and they have two sons, Oliver and Matthew.

Rookie Teacher of the Year Laura Haim is a fifth grade math teacher at Pinecrest Elementary School. Born and raised in the Village of Pinecrest, Ms. Haim is now teaching with the teachers who taught and inspired her. She began her career as a Teach for America (TFA) corps member teaching kindergarten in Overtown. After completing her TFA commitment, she was a lead prekindergarten teacher at the Harlem Children's Zone in New York City. Before returning to the classroom, Ms. Haim worked at the United Way Center for Excellence in Early Education, where she helped train early childhood teachers. Laura graduated magna cum laude from Yale University and earned an Ed.M. in Human Development and Psychology from the Harvard Graduate School of Education. She and her husband live in Pinecrest with their two young sons.

Miami-Dade County Public Schools commends Mr. Oliver Diez and Ms. Laurie Haim for their commitment to excellence, dedication to education, and efforts on behalf of students.

ACTION PROPOSED BY

DR. LAWRENCE S. FELDMAN:

That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, approve Resolution No. 19-022 of The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, recognizing Oliver Diez as the 2020 Francisco R. Walker Teacher of the Year and Laurie Haim as the 2019 Rookie Teacher of the Year.

**RESOLUTION NO. 19-022
OF THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA,
RECOGNIZING OLIVER DIEZ AS THE 2020 FRANCISCO R. WALKER TEACHER OF THE
YEAR AND LAURIE HAIM AS THE 2019 ROOKIE TEACHER OF THE YEAR**

WHEREAS, the Teacher of the Year program is a joint venture between The United Teachers of Dade (UTD), the Miami-Dade County Council of PTAs/PTSAs and Miami-Dade County Public Schools that recognizes excellence in teaching. This year's awards ceremony was held on January 31 at the DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel Miami Airport & Convention Center. Oliver Diez of Palmetto Elementary School was selected as the 2020 Francisco R. Walker Teacher of the Year and Laurie Haim of Pinecrest Elementary School was selected as the 2019 Rookie Teacher of the Year; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Diez was born and raised in Miami, where he graduated from Hialeah Miami Lakes Senior High School. He earned his bachelor's and master's degrees in music education from Florida International University and is currently in his 20th year at Palmetto Elementary, where he teaches general music. In 1999, he was selected as Palmetto Elementary's Rookie Teacher of the Year and later, in 2002, as its Teacher of the Year; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Diez has been nominated twice for the Grammy Music Educator Award and has been a Who's Who in Education nominee. Mr. Diez has established an active music program at Palmetto Elementary consisting of a beginning band, concert band, jazz combo, a drumline, a chorus, and two levels of string orchestra. All of these extra-curricular programs are accomplished before and after school hours; and

WHEREAS, his students, both current and former, have gone on to achieve countless recognitions at national musical competitions and invitations to participate prestigious events. In March of 2019, his concert band, along with his 4th-5th grade chorus members, will perform at the world-famous Carnegie Hall in New York City. His students' community performances include the Annual Relay for Life at Baptist Hospital, Palmetto Bay, and Village of Pinecrest, Miami Marlins games, Miami HEAT games, various church festivals from our community, SoMi Artwalk performances at Sunset Place, Neiman Marcus breakfast with Santa, The Falls Holiday Festival, the Community Foundation Winter Concert and Night of Lights at Pinecrest Gardens; and

WHEREAS, Rookie Teacher of the Year Laura Haim is a fifth-grade math teacher at Pinecrest Elementary School. Born and raised in the Village of Pinecrest, Ms. Haim is now teaching with the educators who taught and inspired her. She began her career as a Teach for America (TFA) Corps member teaching kindergarten in Overtown. After completing her TFA commitment, she was a lead prekindergarten teacher at the Harlem Children's Zone in New York City; and

WHEREAS, before returning to the classroom, Ms. Haim worked at the United Way Center for Excellence in Early Education, where she helped train early childhood teachers. Laura graduated magna cum laude from Yale University and earned an Ed.M. in human development and psychology from the Harvard Graduate School of Education. She and her husband live in Pinecrest with their two young sons;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, approve Resolution No.19-022 of The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, recognizing Oliver Diez as the 2020 Francisco R. Walker Teacher of the Year and Laurie Haim as the 2019 Rookie Teacher of the Year.

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

Presented this 13th day of March, A.D. 2019

THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA

CHAIR

ATTEST:

Secretary