

Ms. Maria Teresa Rojas, Board Member

**SUBJECT: REQUEST APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION NO. 19-020 OF THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA, RECOGNIZING THE 2019 AMERICAN FEDERATION OF STATE, COUNTY, AND MUNICIPAL EMPLOYEES, LOCAL 1184 (AFSCME) SUPPORT PERSONNEL OF THE YEAR IN MIAMI-DADE COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS (M-DCPS)**

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**COMMITTEE: PERSONNEL, STUDENT, SCHOOL, & COMMUNITY SUPPORT**

**LINK TO STRATEGIC BLUEPRINT: HIGHLY EFFECTIVE TEACHERS, LEADERS AND STAFF**

Employee recognition in today's workplace plays an important role in employee satisfaction and retention. Everyone in Miami-Dade County Public Schools is always willing and eager to give credit where credit is due and support employees throughout the year.

The annual AFSCME/M-DCPS Support Personnel of the Year program is a countywide project which provides deserved recognition to AFSCME support personnel and serves to highlight the positive aspects of their contributions to excellence in education. The program aims to honor AFSCME support personnel working in Miami-Dade County Public Schools.

The 2019 AFSCME Support Personnel of the Year Recognition Dinner was held on February 27, 2019, at the Doubletree by Hilton Miami Airport and Convention Center. The winners were:

**Food & Nutrition:** Ms. Theresa Walton, Food Service Manager II, Norma S. Edelcup/Sunny Isles Beach K-8 Center, was selected as the winner for Food and Nutrition and the *2019 AFSCME Support Personnel of the Year*,

**Maintenance:** Ms. Lydia Sprauve, Foreperson Work Order Clerk, Maintenance Service Center 3, was selected as the winner for Maintenance;

**Transportation:** Ms. Carmen Manzanares, School Bus Driver, John Schee Transportation, was selected as the winner for Transportation;

**Plant Operations:** Mr. Kenyada Ragin, Head Custodian, D. A. Dorsey Technical College, was selected as the winner for Plant Operations; and

**General Services:** Ms. Samantha Thomas, Plant Security Foreperson, School Board Administration Building (SBAB) Security, was selected the winner for General Services.

## **2019 AFSCME Support Personnel of the Year Miami-Dade County Public Schools**

**Ms. Theresa Walton** has been with M-DCPS for 27 years and is the **Food Services Manager II** at Norma S. Edelcup/Sunny Isles Beach K-8 Center. Ms. Walton is often the first person to arrive to campus at 5:15 a.m. and works tirelessly to provide her students with a variety of food choices with the goal of increasing participation in the breakfast and lunch programs.

Ms. Walton is an active member of the PTSA and assists them in the areas of fundraising, cultural arts activities, and book fairs. She makes herself available to support all extra-curricular activities fostering a harmonious school community.

When asked to describe Ms. Walton, students and teachers had this to say: “wonderful, warm, cheerful, great initiative, wants the best for students, goes the extra mile, energetic, punctual, gives 150 percent” and most importantly --- we hope she is our manager for a long time.”

### **2019 Department Winners**

**Ms. Lydia Sprauve, Foreperson Work Order Clerk, Maintenance Service Center 3**, is celebrating 30 years of service with Miami-Dade County Public Schools and is responsible for overseeing the process of administering and managing the work order process. This process directly affects the efficiency with which maintenance personnel can respond and resolve issues that may arise at any of the 130 facilities and/or schools within Maintenance Service Center 3 on a daily basis.

Ms. Sprauve specifically stood out among her peers during the most recent hurricane. The administration of the paperwork, data entry and constant follow up, plus her invaluable input throughout the process was significant and instrumental in the maintenance center having a successful re-opening of schools after the hurricane. She displays excellent interpersonal skills with her colleagues, and employs a lead by example leadership style.

**Ms. Carmen Manzanares, School Bus Driver, John Schee Transportation**, has always had a passion for being a school bus driver. She enjoys working with the students and gets a huge sense of accomplishment by putting a smile on the faces the children she transports.

Ms. Manzanares is known for decorating her bus for special occasions, giving students certificates at the culmination of the school year, and working tirelessly each day to ensure that families feel comfortable with their children in her care. Her supervisor has stated that she is courteous, friendly, and always willing to offer a helping hand. The Assistant Principal of David Lawrence Jr. K-8 Center says Ms. Manzanares is “one of a kind,” and shares how she hears students every day say “I want to ride Ms. Carmen’s bus.”

**Mr. Kenyada Ragin, Head Custodian, D.A. Dorsey Technical College**, displays great leadership abilities in his role as head custodian, but still maintains a “let’s do it together” attitude. He constantly talks about the importance of building a great team that can have Dorsey ‘looking good’!

With 23 years of experience with Miami-Dade County Public Schools under his belt, Mr. Ragin is known for his willingness to do whatever it takes to get the job done. He is extremely dependable, and often has to be reminded to take vacation time. The pride that Mr. Ragin and his staff take in making sure that the school is kept in the best condition is evident in the flawless property audits the school has received in the last two years.

**Ms. Samantha Thomas, Plant Security Foreperson, School Board Administration Building (SBAB) Security** has been employed with the District for over 30 years. In her current role she is responsible for maintaining a safe environment for herself and over 2,000 employees.

One of Samantha's colleague's states: "Sgt. Thomas is always there for us, even before we know that we need her. Most important, she keeps us safe and is always there to listen." Ms. Thomas has created a safe space for both employees of M-DCPS, as well as guests and members of the community. On one occasion when making rounds, Ms. Thomas identified a homeless woman in need; going above and beyond to provide assistance. This is just one example of her care and compassion for all people.

**ACTION PROPOSED BY  
MS. MARIA TERESA ROJAS:**

That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, approve Resolution No. 19-020 of The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, recognizing the 2019 AFSCME Support Personnel of the Year:

1. Ms. Theresa Walton, Food Service Manager II, Norma S. Edelcup/Sunny Isles Beach K-8 Center, was selected as the winner for Food and Nutrition and the 2019 AFSCME Support Personnel of the Year;
2. Ms. Lydia Sprauve, Foreperson Work Order Clerk, Maintenance Service Center 3, was selected as the winner for Maintenance;
3. Ms. Carmen Manzanares, School Bus Driver, John Schee Transportation, was selected as the winner for Transportation;
4. Mr. Kenyada Ragin, Head Custodian, D. A. Dorsey Technical College, was selected as the winner for Plan Operations; and
5. Ms. Samantha Thomas, School Board Administration Building (SBAB) Security, was selected the winner for General Services.

**REQUEST FOR APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION NO. 19-020  
OF THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA, RECOGNIZING THE  
2019 AMERICAN FEDERATION OF STATE, COUNTY, AND MUNICIPAL EMPLOYEES,  
LOCAL 1184 (AFSCME) SUPPORT PERSONNEL OF THE YEAR IN MIAMI-DADE  
COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

**WHEREAS**, the annual AFSCME/M-DCPS Support Personnel of the Year program is a countywide project which provides deserved recognition to AFSCME support personnel and serves to highlight the positive aspects of their contributions to excellence in education; and

**WHEREAS**, the program aims to honor AFSCME support personnel working in Miami-Dade County Public Schools; and

**WHEREAS**, the 2019 AFSCME Support Personnel of the Year Recognition Dinner was held on February 27, 2019, at the Doubletree by Hilton Miami Airport and Convention Center.

**WHEREAS**, Ms. Theresa Walton, Food Service Manager II, Norma S. Edelcup/Sunny Isles Beach K-8 Center, was selected as the winner for Food and Nutrition and the *2019 AFSCME Support Personnel of the Year*; and

**WHEREAS**, Ms. Lydia Sprauve, Foreperson Work Order Clerk, Maintenance Service Center 3, was selected as the winner for Maintenance; and

**WHEREAS**, Ms. Carmen Manzanares, School Bus Driver, John Schee Transportation, was selected as the winner for Transportation; and

**WHEREAS**, Mr. Kenyada Ragin, Head Custodian, D. A. Dorsey Technical College, was selected as the winner for Plan Operations; and

**WHEREAS**, Ms. Samantha Thomas, School Board Administration Building (SBAB) Security, was selected the winner for General Services.

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

The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, approve Resolution No. 19-020 of The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, recognizing the 2019 American Federation of State, County, and Municipal Employees, Local 1184 (AFSCME) Support Personnel of the Year.

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

**Presented this thirteenth day of March, A. D. 2019**

THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA

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CHAIR

ATTEST:

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Secretary