

Ms. Lubby Navarro, Board Member

**SUBJECT: REQUEST APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION NO. 19-024 OF THE
SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA,
RECOGNIZING MS. ROSA MARIA OLSEN-BARBARA**

COMMITTEE: FISCAL ACCOUNTABILITY & GOVERNMENT RELATIONS

LINK TO STRATEGIC

BLUEPRINT: INFORMED, ENGAGED AND EMPOWERED STAKEHOLDERS

Ms. Rosa Maria Olsen-Barbará is a special education and disability advisor and advocate. She is the mother of two young adults with autism spectrum disorders.

Ms. Olsen-Barbará was born and raised in Mexico City. She lived there until her family relocated to Paris, France, when she was a teenager. She later moved to Miami, where she graduated from Florida International University with degrees in marketing and international business. For many years, Ms. Olsen-Barbará worked as a marketing strategist, helping to develop the U.S. Hispanic market for major banks and international corporations. She lived in Cleveland while her husband was completing his medical training and subsequently moved back to Mexico. When her children were diagnosed with autism spectrum disorder, Ms. Olsen-Barbará and her family moved back to Miami, where they had the support of her parents. It was then that she also made the decision to focus all of her time and efforts on learning how to be an advocate for her children.

Ms. Olsen-Barbará has been passionate about advocacy since her early years. As a young girl, she joined her mother in volunteering for the first organization in Mexico to help children with cerebral palsy. When her children were diagnosed with autism spectrum disorders, Ms. Olsen-Barbará began attending Individualized Education Program meetings. During these meetings, she found herself sharing her experiences and acquired knowledge with other parents facing similar situations with their children.

Ms. Olsen-Barbará began her involvement in Miami-Dade County Public Schools in 2002 as a parent volunteer. Since then, she has volunteered for the PTSA at her children's schools at all grade levels and in every capacity, from Recording Secretary to Vice-President to President.

In 2009, Governor Charlie Crist appointed Ms. Olsen-Barbará to the Family Care Council, which advises the Agency for Persons with Disabilities in the State of Florida on issues faced by individuals with developmental disabilities. She was reappointed to the board in 2012 by Governor Rick Scott. From 2009-2016, Ms. Olsen-Barbará also served as the Chair of the Area 11 Family Care Council, which serves Miami-Dade and Monroe counties.

Ms. Olsen-Barbará also serves on other boards related to disability and education. She has served on the Superintendent's Advisory Panel for Exceptional Student Education since 2009. She has been involved with this districtwide panel in various capacities, including as a parent member, Vice Chair, and Chair, the position she currently holds. Ms. Olsen-Barbará is the District 7 appointee to the Student Services Advisory Committee. She also serves on the Family & Community Involvement Advisory Committee and the Attendance Boundary Committee, to which she was appointed by Superintendent Alberto M. Carvalho. Ms. Olsen-Barbará was appointed by Commissioner Esteban L. Bovo, Jr., to the Miami-Dade County Commission on Disabilities.

Ms. Olsen-Barbará is a board member of Seton Academy, a Catholic organization that seeks the inclusion of students with special needs in the general educational setting of religious schools. She and her family also volunteer at Janua Coeli, a Catholic organization that cares for elderly women in the Coral Gables area.

For years, Ms. Olsen-Barbará has volunteered her time and efforts to advocating for children with special needs and their families. She continues to work tirelessly to ensure that students with disabilities have better educational opportunities and brighter futures.

Ms. Rosa Maria Olsen-Barbará is to be commended for her service and support to Miami-Dade County Public Schools.

**ACTION PROPOSED BY
LUBBY NAVARRO:**

That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, approve Resolution No. 19-024 of The School Board Of Miami-Dade County, Florida, recognizing Rosa Maria Olsen-Barbará.

RESOLUTION NO. 19-024
THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA,
RECOGNIZING ROSA MARIA OLSEN-BARBARÁ

WHEREAS, Ms. Rosa Maria Olsen-Barbará is a special education and disability advisor and advocate. She is the mother of two young adults with autism spectrum disorders; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Olsen-Barbará was born and raised in Mexico City. She lived there until her family relocated to Paris, France, when she was a teenager. She later moved to Miami, where she graduated from Florida International University with degrees in marketing and international business. For many years, Ms. Olsen-Barbará worked as a marketing strategist, helping to develop the U.S. Hispanic market for major banks and international corporations. She lived in Cleveland while her husband was completing his medical training and subsequently moved back to Mexico. When her children were diagnosed with autism spectrum disorder, Ms. Olsen-Barbará and her family moved back to Miami, where they had the support of her parents. It was then that she also made the decision to focus all of her time and efforts on learning how to be an advocate for her children; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Olsen-Barbará has been passionate about advocacy since her early years. As a young girl, she joined her mother in volunteering for the first organization in Mexico to help children with cerebral palsy. When her children were diagnosed with autism spectrum disorders, Ms. Olsen-Barbará began attending Individualized Education Program meetings. During these meetings, she found herself sharing her experiences and acquired knowledge with other parents facing similar situations with their children; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Olsen-Barbará began her involvement in Miami-Dade County Public Schools in 2002 as a parent volunteer. Since then, she has volunteered for the PTSA at her children's schools at all grade levels and in every capacity, from Recording Secretary to Vice-President to President; and

WHEREAS, in 2009, Governor Charlie Crist appointed Ms. Olsen-Barbará to the Family Care Council, which advises the Agency for Persons with Disabilities in the State of Florida on issues faced by individuals with developmental disabilities. She was reappointed to the board in 2012 by Governor Rick Scott. From 2009-2016, Ms. Olsen-Barbará also served as the Chair of the Area 11 Family Care Council, which serves Miami-Dade and Monroe counties; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Olsen-Barbará also serves on other boards related to disability and education. She has served on the Superintendent's Advisory Panel for Exceptional Student Education since 2009. She has been involved with this districtwide panel in various capacities, including as a parent member, Vice Chair, and Chair, the position she currently holds; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Olsen-Barbará is the District 7 appointee to the Student Services Advisory Committee. She also serves on the Family & Community Involvement Advisory Committee and the Attendance Boundary Committee, to which she was appointed by Superintendent Alberto M. Carvalho. Ms. Olsen-Barbará was appointed by Commissioner Esteban L. Bovo, Jr., to the Miami-Dade County Commission on Disabilities; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Olsen-Barbará is a board member of Seton Academy, a Catholic organization that seeks the inclusion of students with special needs in the general educational setting of religious schools. She and her family also volunteer at Janua Coeli, a Catholic organization that cares for elderly women in the Coral Gables area; and

WHEREAS, for years, Ms. Olsen-Barbará has volunteered her time and efforts to advocating for children with special needs and their families. She continues to work tirelessly to ensure that students with disabilities have better educational opportunities and brighter futures; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Rosa Maria Olsen-Barbará is to be commended for her service and support to Miami-Dade County Public Schools.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, approve Resolution No. 19-024 of The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, recognizing Rosa Maria Olsen-Barbará.

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

Presented this seventeenth day of April, A.D. 2019

THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA

CHAIR

ATTEST:

Secretary