

Ms. Lubby Navarro, Board Member

SUBJECT: REQUEST APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION NO. 19-030 OF THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA, RECOGNIZING MS. MARY ANN GIL-ALONSO

COMMITTEE: FISCAL ACCOUNTABILITY & GOVERNMENT RELATIONS

LINK TO STRATEGIC

BLUEPRINT: INFORMED, ENGAGED AND EMPOWERED STAKEHOLDERS

Ms. Mary Ann Gil-Alonso was born on July 12, 1970, in Miami, Florida. She is the daughter of Mr. Modesto Gil and Dr. Felicia Gil, a respected and distinguished administrator who worked for Miami-Dade County Public Schools for 39 years.

When Ms. Gil-Alonso graduated from high school, she did not yet know what she wanted to study. But after working at a church after-school care program, she discovered her passion for teaching children. It was a formative experience, one that inspired Ms. Gil-Alonso to study elementary education at Florida International University, where she graduated with a Bachelor of Arts degree in 1992. She continued her studies at Florida International University and in 1995 earned a Master of Science in educational leadership.

She began her professional career in 1992 as a third-grade teacher at Lenora Braynon Smith Elementary School, where she taught until 1995. She began her career as an administrator in 1995 when she became the assistant principal at North Beach Elementary School. She later served as the assistant principal at Greynolds Park Elementary School and W.J. Bryan Elementary School. After just one year as the assistant principal of W.J. Bryan Elementary, she was promoted to principal—a true testament to her innate talent and hard work. After four years, Ms. Gil-Alonso became the principal of Benjamin Franklin Elementary School, where she oversaw the transition of the school into a K-8 Center. She served this school for ten years. Ms. Gil-Alonso last served as principal of Kendale Elementary School, where she worked until Hurricane Irma hit our state in September 2017.

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Ms. Gil-Alonso was deeply involved in the community, having served as a member of the Council for Educational Change and as a member of the Executive Pass Program. For many years, she was also involved with Project Rise, the Principal's Leadership Institute, and the Ready Schools Miami Program. Ms. Gil-Alonso received countless honors throughout her years as an administrator. She received several School Attendance Recognitions, even earning first place—evidence of the quality of her leadership. She was also nominated for Principal of the Year of the Miami Central Region Feeder Pattern for the 2012-2013 school year.

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Those that did not know Ms. Gil-Alonso well, and even some that did, might never have imagined that Ms. Mary Ann Gil-Alonso had been fighting a battle with cancer for seven years. Even in times of struggle, her spirit remained unfaltering and her commitment to her students unwavering. When she arrived at Kendale Elementary School, she was intent on making so many positive changes to the quality of her students' educational experience that parents and staff began to call her "Wonder Woman."

She similarly made a lasting impact at W.J. Bryan Elementary School and at Benjamin Franklin K-8 Center, where she spent most of her professional career. She was hands-on, taking on the task of beautifying the schools, improving academics, and partnering with parents and organizations alike to foster a productive and inviting educational environment.

But her students, parents, and staff likely also remember another side, one that made her memorable in ways other than just a decorated and successful educator and administrator. They likely remember her dressing up in funny costumes or roller-skating around their schools. They likely remember her as a caring, spirited, and engaging person whose dedication to the students, parents, and community she served was evident in all that she did.

Ms. Mary Ann Gil-Alonso lost her seven-year battle with cancer on September 27, 2017. She was 47 years old. Ms. Mary Ann Gil-Alonso is survived by her two children, Victoria, 17, and Dominic, 13; her husband, Domingo Alonso; her parents, Dr. Felicia Gil and Mr. Modesto Gil; and her sister, Frances Rodriguez, M.D.

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Ms. Mary Ann Gil-Alonso was a remarkable person and a beloved mother, daughter, wife, educator, and leader. She leaves an indelible mark on all those whose lives she touched, and her indefatigable spirit serves as a reminder to all who met her that nothing is impossible.

Ms. Mary Ann Gil-Alonso is to be commended for her inspirational leadership and selfless dedication to her students, staff, and peers at Miami-Dade County Public Schools.

**ACTION PROPOSED BY
LUBBY NAVARRO:**

That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, approve Resolution No. 19-030 of The School Board Of Miami-Dade County, Florida, recognizing Ms. Mary Ann Gil-Alonso

RESOLUTION NO. 19-030
THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA, RECOGNIZING
MS. MARY ANN GIL-ALONSO

WHEREAS, Ms. Mary Ann Gil-Alonso was born on July 12, 1970, in Miami, Florida. She is the daughter of Mr. Modesto Gil and Dr. Felicia Gil, a respected and distinguished administrator who worked for Miami-Dade County Public Schools for 39 years; and

WHEREAS, when Ms. Gil-Alonso graduated from high school, she did not yet know what she wanted to study. But after working at a church after-school care program, she discovered her passion for teaching children. It was a formative experience, one that inspired Ms. Gil-Alonso to study elementary education at Florida International University, where she graduated with a Bachelor of Arts degree in 1992. She continued her studies at Florida International University and in 1995 earned a Master of Science in educational leadership; and

WHEREAS, She began her professional career in 1992 as a third-grade teacher at Lenora Braynon Smith Elementary School, where she taught until 1995. She began her career as an administrator in 1995 when she became the assistant principal at North Beach Elementary School. She later served as the assistant principal at Greynolds Park Elementary School and W.J. Bryan Elementary School. After just one year as the assistant principal of W.J. Bryan Elementary, she was promoted to principal—a true testament to her innate talent and hard work. After four years, Ms. Gil-Alonso became the principal of Benjamin Franklin Elementary School, where she oversaw the transition of the school into a K-8 Center. She served this school for ten years. Ms. Gil-Alonso last served as principal of Kendale Elementary School, where she worked until Hurricane Irma hit our state in September 2017; and

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WHEREAS, Ms. Gil-Alonso was deeply involved in the community, having served as a member of the Council for Educational Change and as a member of the Executive Pass Program. For many years, she was also involved with Project Rise, the Principal's Leadership Institute, and the Ready Schools Miami Program. Ms. Gil-Alonso received countless honors throughout her years as an administrator. She received several School Attendance Recognitions, even earning first place—evidence of the quality of her leadership. She was also nominated for Principal of the Year of the Miami Central Region Feeder Pattern for the 2012-2013 school year; and

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WHEREAS, those that did not know Ms. Gil-Alonso well, and even some that did, might never have imagined that Ms. Mary Ann Gil-Alonso had been fighting a battle with cancer for seven years. Even in times of struggle, her spirit remained unfaltering and her commitment to her students unwavering. When she arrived at Kendale Elementary School, she was intent on making so many positive changes to the quality of her students' educational experience that parents and staff began to call her "Wonder Woman;" and

WHEREAS, she similarly made a lasting impact at W.J. Bryan Elementary School and at Benjamin Franklin K-8 Center, where she spent most of her professional career. She was hands-on, taking on the task of beautifying the schools, improving academics, and partnering with parents and organizations alike to foster a productive and inviting educational environment; and

WHEREAS, but her students, parents, and staff likely also remember another side, one that made her memorable in ways other than just a decorated and successful educator and administrator. They likely remember her dressing up in funny costumes or roller-skating around their schools. They likely remember her as a caring, spirited, and engaging person whose dedication to the students, parents, and community she served was evident in all that she did; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Mary Ann Gil-Alonso lost her seven-year battle with cancer on September 27, 2017. She was 47 years old. Ms. Mary Ann Gil-Alonso is survived by her two children, Victoria, 17, and Dominic, 13; her husband, Domingo Alonso; her parents, Dr. Felicia Gil and Mr. Modesto Gil; and her sister, Frances Rodriguez, M.D.; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Mary Ann Gil-Alonso was a remarkable person and a beloved mother, daughter, wife, educator, and leader. She leaves an indelible mark on all those whose lives she touched, and her indefatigable spirit serves as a reminder to all who met her that nothing is impossible; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Mary Ann Gil-Alonso is to be commended for her inspirational leadership and selfless dedication to her students, staff, and peers at Miami-Dade County Public Schools.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, approve Resolution No. 19-030 of The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, recognizing Ms. Mary Ann Gil-Alonso.

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

Presented this eighth day of May, A.D. 2019

THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA

CHAIR

ATTEST:

Secretary