

Ms. Maria Teresa Rojas, Board Member

**SUBJECT:           REQUEST APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION NO. 19-034 OF THE  
SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA,  
RECOGNIZING MS. JENNIFER JIMENEZ, 2019 KENNEDY  
CENTER/STEPHEN SONDHEIM INSPIRATIONAL TEACHER  
AWARD WINNER**

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

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

In many people's lives there is at least one teacher who has encouraged and motivated them to become who they are today. These magnificent teachers are not frequently acknowledged for the life changing role they have played. These are the teachers who define us, teachers who broaden our horizons, and inspire us to explore.

Each year, The Kennedy Center/Stephen Sondheim Inspirational Teacher Awards solicit nominations from the general public and notable public figures, providing the opportunity to submit stories about teachers and professors who have made a significant difference in their lives. The Kennedy Center/Stephen Sondheim Inspirational Teacher Awards were created in 2010 in honor of Stephen Sondheim's 80<sup>th</sup> birthday and were initiated and funded through the generous support of Freddie and Myrna Gershon. On March 22, 2019, in celebration of Mr. Sondheim's birthday, a select number of teachers received the Kennedy Center/Stephen Sondheim Inspirational Teacher Award.

Stephen Sondheim is an American composer and lyricist known for more than half a century of contributions to musical theater. Mr. Sondheim has received an Academy Award, eight Tony Awards, including a Special Tony Award for Lifetime Achievement in the Theater, eight Grammy Awards, a Pulitzer Prize and many other recognitions throughout his illustrious career.

Ms. Jennifer Jimenez, a music teacher at South Miami Senior High School has been named one of only six winners in the nation of the 2019 Kennedy Center/Stephen Sondheim Inspirational Teacher Award. Ms. Jimenez was selected from a pool of nominations received and was awarded a \$10,000 cash prize.

Former student Ms. Jackeline Zelaya nominated Ms. Jimenez for this prestigious award and credits her former teacher for teaching her how to breathe and tackle things one at a time, surviving a toxic household and suffering from a collapsed lung later in life while attending college.

**Replacement  
B-9**

Ms. Jimenez started her teaching career as a music teacher at West Miami Middle School in January 2004 and transferred to South Miami Senior High School in June 2007 where she has worked in the arts magnet program as band director.

She has received numerous awards including the Florida Bandmaster's Association-District 16 Oliver Hobbs Award for Music Excellence, the Give a Note Foundation and 21<sup>st</sup> Century Fox's MusicEd Idol Teacher of the Year, and Rookie Teacher of the Year. She is also a National Board Certified Teacher.

**ACTION PROPOSED BY**

**MS. MARIA TERESA ROJAS:** That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, approve Resolution No.19-034 of The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, recognizing Ms. Jennifer Jimenez, 2019 Kennedy Center/Stephen Sondheim Inspirational Teacher Award Winner.

**RESOLUTION NO. 19-034 OF THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA,  
RECOGNIZING MS. JENNIFER JIMENEZ, 2019 KENNEDY CENTER/STEPHEN SONDHEIM  
INSPIRATIONAL TEACHER AWARD WINNER**

**WHEREAS,** The Kennedy Center/Stephen Sondheim Inspirational Teacher Awards solicit nominations from the general public and notable public figures, providing the opportunity to submit stories about teachers and professors who have made a significant difference in their lives; and

**WHEREAS,** The Kennedy Center/Stephen Sondheim Inspirational Teacher Awards were created in 2010 in honor of Stephen Sondheim's 80<sup>th</sup> birthday and were initiated and funded through the generous support of Freddie and Myrna Gershon; and

**WHEREAS,** Ms. Jennifer Jimenez, a music teacher at South Miami Senior High School has been named one of only six winners in the nation of the 2019 Kennedy Center/Stephen Sondheim Inspirational Teacher Award; and

**WHEREAS,** Ms. Jimenez was selected from a pool of nominations received and was awarded a \$10,000 cash prize; and

**WHEREAS,** former student Ms. Jackeline Zelaya nominated Ms. Jimenez for this prestigious award and credits her former teacher for teaching her how to breathe and tackle things one at a time, surviving a toxic household and suffering from a collapsed lung later in life while attending college; and

**WHEREAS,** Ms. Jimenez started her teaching career as a music teacher at West Miami Middle School in January 2004 and transferred to South Miami Senior High School in June 2007 where she has worked in the arts magnet program as band director; and

**WHEREAS,** she has received numerous awards including the Florida Bandmaster's Association-District 16 Oliver Hobbs Award for Music Excellence, the Give a Note Foundation and 21<sup>st</sup> Century Fox's MusicEd Idol Teacher of the Year, and Rookie Teacher of the Year. She is also a National Board Certified Teacher.

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

The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, approve Resolution No. 19-034 of The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, recognizing the Ms. Jennifer Jimenez, 2019 Kennedy Center/Stephen Sondheim Inspirational Teacher Award Winner.

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

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CHAIR

ATTEST:

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Secretary