

Dr. Dorothy Bendross-Mindingall, Board Member

SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION NO. 19-066 OF THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA, RECOGNIZING ATTORNEY MELBA PEARSON

COMMITTEE: PERSONNEL, STUDENT, SCHOOL & COMMUNITY SUPPORT

LINK TO STRATEGIC

BLUEPRINT: INFORMED, ENGAGED AND EMPOWERED STAKEHOLDERS

A New York native, Melba Pearson has called Miami home for more than 20 years. After receiving her undergraduate degree at New York University, she completed her studies at Hofstra University School of Law.

Ms. Pearson is an attorney and the Deputy Director for the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) of Florida. Before joining the ACLU, Ms. Pearson was an Assistant State Attorney in Miami-Dade County for 16 years. She ended her prosecutorial career in 2017 as Assistant Chief in the Career Criminal/Robbery Unit, supervising junior attorneys while prosecuting homicides.

Ms. Pearson is a frequent guest lecturer on a wide array of legal concerns. She serves as adjunct faculty for the University of Phoenix and Bryant and Stratton College, teaching law to undergraduate as well as master's students. A prolific writer and blogger, she has published numerous popular and scholarly articles on topics including police encounters, domestic violence, crimes against women, criminal trial procedure, along with everyday legal issues. Publications that have profiled, featured or quoted her include The New York Times, The Baltimore Sun, Essence Magazine, The Huffington Post, The Miami Herald, The Root, and Ebony Magazine. Ms. Pearson has been a regular guest on Sunday morning political television show "This Week in South Florida." She has also been a guest on national media regarding legal trends. Lastly, she writes her own blog covering real life and the law at **The Resident Legal Diva**.

Ms. Pearson has been extensively involved in various community groups and has taken on a leadership/mentoring role in several charity organizations. Ms. Pearson is Past President of the National Black Prosecutors Association currently serving as Foundation President; Co-Chair of the Prosecution Function Committee of the American Bar Association; and Immediate President of the Gwen S. Cherry Black Women Lawyers Association in South Florida.

**ACTION PROPOSED BY
DR. DOROTHY BENDROSS-MINDINGALL:**

That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, approve Resolution No. 19-066 of The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, recognizing Attorney Melba Pearson.

**Replacement
B-6**

**RESOLUTION NO. 19-066
OF THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA,
RECOGNIZING ATTORNEY MELBA PEARSON**

WHEREAS, Melba Pearson has called Miami home for more than 20 years, a native of New York. After receiving her undergraduate degree at New York University, she completed her studies at Hofstra University School of Law; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Pearson is an attorney and the Deputy Director for the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) of Florida. Before joining the ACLU, Ms. Pearson was an Assistant State Attorney in Miami-Dade County for 16 years. She ended her prosecutorial career in 2017 as Assistant Chief in the Career Criminal/Robbery Unit, supervising junior attorneys while prosecuting homicides; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Pearson is a frequent guest lecturer on a wide array of legal concerns. She serves as adjunct faculty for the University of Phoenix and Bryant and Stratton College, teaching law to undergraduate as well as master's students. A prolific writer and blogger, she has published numerous popular and scholarly articles on topics including police encounters, domestic violence, crimes against women, criminal trial procedure, along with everyday legal issues. Publications that have profiled, featured or quoted her include The New York Times, The Baltimore Sun, Essence Magazine, The Huffington Post, The Miami Herald, The Root, and Ebony Magazine; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Pearson has been extensively involved in various community groups and has taken on a leadership/mentoring role in several charity organizations. Ms. Pearson is Past President of the National Black Prosecutors Association currently serving as Foundation President; Co-Chair of the Prosecution Function Committee of the American Bar Association; and Immediate President of the Gwen S. Cherry Black Women Lawyers Association in South Florida.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, approve Resolution No.19-066 of The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, recognizing Attorney Melba Pearson for her outstanding leadership, dedication to the community and legal profession.

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

Presented this eleventh day of December, A.D. 2019

THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA

CHAIR

ATTEST:

Secretary