

Ms. Susie V. Castillo, Board Member

**SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION NO. 20-015 OF
THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA,
RECOGNIZING EDUARDO CORA**

COMMITTEE: PERSONNEL, STUDENT, SCHOOL & COMMUNITY SUPPORT

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

Miami-Dade County Public Schools (M-DCPS) is fortunate to have many community partners that go above and beyond to give South Florida youth diverse and amazing opportunities to grow, learn, and lead happy and productive lives. One of these community partners is Eduardo “Eddie” Cora, the President and CEO of Miami Dade County Fair & Exposition, Inc., commonly referred to as The Fair.

Mr. Cora has been a member of the Board of Directors of The Fair for over 20 years. Throughout his tenure, he has been an active advocate of Miami-Dade County Public Schools and instrumental in promoting innovative and fun educational opportunities, showcasing and rewarding youth achievement, and raising the visibility and importance of South Florida’s agricultural industry. At the helm of The Fair, he continues to positively shape the organization’s increased commitment to the community and specifically to education.

In 2019 alone, The Fair donated \$586,720 in scholarships, youth programs, and premiums and awards to deserving students throughout the county while displaying more than 63,000 student exhibits. The exhibits showcase students’ talents in robotics, photography, social sciences, the arts, technology, and creative writing, among others. Under his leadership, The Fair also generously offered the use of the grounds as the central donation collection location for the victims of Hurricane Dorian and as a pet-friendly shelter for South Floridians.

The Fair has created multiple scholarship opportunities for students who excel academically through the Scholarship Program, the Walter B. Arnold Jr. Youth Hall of Fame Community Service Award for students who have made selfless contributions, and the Elie Wiesel Foundation prize in Ethics Essay Contest, the only one of its kind in the nation at a high school level.

Mr. Cora has also led the enhancement of The Fair’s support of M-DCPS students and schools with Agriscience and Agribusiness programs with the Livestock Funding Program. This program has made \$100,000 available to help students with the purchase and maintenance of livestock.

**Replacement
B-4**

His vision and commitment to helping all children is a cornerstone for The Fair's athletic programs offering over 6,000 middle and high school students' year-round access to swimming, diving, cross country, tennis, track, golf, bowling, wrestling, and badminton, and basketball.

In his nearly 40 years as a South Florida resident, Eduardo "Eddie" Cora has been dedicated to helping those most in need. Since joining The Fair's Board of Directors in 2000, he has continually raised the bar for the betterment of students and families countywide. His vision continues to provide invaluable resources, services, and most of all, opportunities.

Since November 2012, Mr. Cora has been a member of the Miami-Dade County Public Schools Diversity, Equity, and Excellence Advisory Committee (DEEAC), is a member of the Board of Directors of The Florida Federation of Fairs and serves on the Advisory Committee of The International Association of Fairs.

**ACTION PROPOSED BY
MS. SUSIE V. CASTILLO:**

That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, approve Resolution No. 20-015 of the School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida recognizing Eduardo Cora.

**RESOLUTION NO. 20-015
OF THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA, RECOGNIZING
EDUARDO CORA**

WHEREAS, Mr. Eduardo “Eddie” Cora serves as the President and CEO of The Fair, Miami-Dade County Fair and Exposition, Inc., a non-profit organization dedicated to enriching our community by promoting education and South Florida’s agriculture industry and showcasing and rewarding youth achievement; and

WHEREAS, Over 30 years ago, Mr. Cora began his professional career working for the Marlins RBI program that brings baseball and softball to children and youth in South Florida’s most underserved areas. The experience had a profound impact on his life as he learned the importance of access to a good education and the value of creating opportunities for all South Florida children and youth; and

WHEREAS, In 2000, he joined the Board of Directors for The Fair and has since led the organization to increase the number of scholarships for graduating seniors to 170 in 2019 alone, totaling more than \$560,000. During his tenure, The Fair has expanded the opportunities for students interested in the Agriscience, Agricultural, and Veterinary Science fields by providing upwards of \$150,000 in capital just last year to purchase and raise cattle and other livestock; and

WHEREAS, Today, The Fair provides free entrances to every single student of the nearly 343,600 Miami Dade County Public School students, offers a day for students with disabilities, and has opened The Fair grounds to exhibit and showcase over 63,000 students’ talents in robotics, photography, social sciences, the arts, technology, and creative writing, among others; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Cora is active in many community organization and committees including serving on the Miami-Dade County Public Schools Diversity, Equity, and Excellence Advisory Committee for nearly 8 years, The Florida Federation of Fairs Board of Directors and The International Associations of Fairs Advisory Committee; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, approve Resolution No. 19-015 of The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, recognizing Eduardo Cora.

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

Presented this eighteenth day of March, A.D. 2020

THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA

CHAIR

ATTEST:

Secretary