

Dr. Lubby Navarro, Board Member

**SUBJECT: REQUEST APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION NO. 20-016 OF THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA, RECOGNIZING MIAMI SOUTHRIDGE SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL FOR THE ESPN SPECIAL OLYMPICS UNIFIED CHAMPION AWARD**

**COMMITTEE: FACILITIES & CONSTRUCTION**

**LINK TO STRATEGIC BLUEPRINT: EFFECTIVE AND SUSTAINABLE BUSINESS PRACTICES**

Special Olympics Unified Champion Schools is a program for school's Pre-K through university that intentionally promotes meaningful social inclusion by bringing together students with and without intellectual disabilities to create accepting school environments. About 1.4 million people worldwide take part in Unified Sports to combine students with and without intellectual disabilities on sports teams to help break down barriers that have historically kept students separated.

National standards of excellence were developed by a panel of leaders in education and Special Olympics; these standards require a fully-inclusive sports or fitness program, inclusive youth leadership, and whole school engagement to promote inclusion. When the standards have been met by a school, it is eligible to receive national banner recognition.

As one of only five schools in the nation to be a part of the Top 5, Miami Southridge High School is recognized as a Unified Champion School for its commitment to uphold the national standards for inclusion. Miami Southridge Senior High has embraced Unified Sports to establish a Soccer team, Cheerleading squad and Music class to provide all students a chance to collaborate and build new friendships.

ESPN has served as the Global Presenting Sponsor of Special Olympics Unified Sports since 2013, supporting the growth and expansion of this program that empowers individuals to engage through the power of sports. Miami Southridge Senior High School has been recognized by ESPN as a Special Olympics National Unified Champion School. This designation is awarded to schools that embody inclusivity both on and off the field. Special Olympics Florida recognizes Miami Southridge Senior High School to receive this incredible honor for its ongoing commitment to all students through Academics, Activities, Athletics and the Arts.

Staff and their entire team have gone above and beyond in ensuring that the athletes with intellectual disabilities are given every opportunity they deserve. Their passion for inclusion has changed the climate revolving peers with intellectual disabilities into one of acceptance and respect and it is because of their continued efforts with Special Olympics Florida that Miami Southridge Senior High School has been selected to receive this year's ESPN Special Olympics Unified Champion Award.

This initiative would not have been successful without the support of Miami Southridge Senior High School principal, Mr. Humberto J. Miret, through his encouragement, his time and commitment to this great movement. This initiative would also not have been possible without the students' exceptional efforts to bring Unified Sports to their school.

This item has been reviewed and approved by the School Board Attorney's office as to form and legal sufficiency.

**ACTION PROPOSED BY**

**DR. LUBBY NAVARRO:** That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, approve Resolution No. 20-016 of The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, recognizing The Miami Southridge Senior High School for being the recipient of the ESPN Special Olympics Unified Champion Award