

Dr. Dorothy Bendross-Mindingall, Board Member

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**SUBJECT: THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA, RECOGNIZE AND OBSERVE MARCH 2020 AS NATIONAL WOMEN’S HISTORY MONTH TO BE CELEBRATED AT ALL MIAMI-DADE COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

**COMMITTEE: ACADEMICS, INNOVATION, EVALUATION & TECHNOLOGY**

**LINK TO STRATEGIC BLUEPRINT: RELEVANT, RIGOROUS AND INNOVATIVE ACADEMICS**

In 1978, the Education Task Force of the Sonoma County (California) Commission on the Status of Women initiated a local Women’s History Week celebration to address the lack of K-12 curriculum inclusion and the general public consciousness regarding historical and contemporary contributions of women to our nation.

In 1980, the National Women’s History Project (NWHP) was founded in Santa Rosa, California as a non-profit organization by women committed to increasing the awareness of women’s historical achievements. The founders of the NWHP petitioned the United States Congress to expand the weeklong celebration to the entire month of March. In 1987, encouraged by the successful campaign of NWHP, growing momentum and state-by-state resolutions, Congress declared March as National Women’s History Month in perpetuity. Accordingly, a special Presidential Proclamation is issued each year honoring the extraordinary achievements of American Women.

Recognition of Women’s History Month continues to become increasingly widespread, nationally and throughout the world, as the vital roles of women and their important contributions are acknowledged.

In 1998, the Florida Legislature amended Florida Statutes to require instruction in “women’s contributions to the United States.” Throughout the school year, students in Miami-Dade County Public Schools study the many contributions of women, how they have impacted history, and their relevance to today’s society. In recognition of Women’s History Month, our school district distributes select curriculum materials to all schools to enlighten students about women’s contributions to our community, state, and nation.

This Agenda Item has been reviewed and approved by the School Board Attorney's Office as to form and legal sufficiency.

**ACTION PROPOSED BY**

**DR. DOROTHY BENDROSS-MINDINGALL:** That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, recognize and observe March 2020 as Women's History Month to be celebrated in all Miami-Dade County Public Schools.