

Dr. Lawrence S. Feldman, Board Member

SUBJECT: WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH ENDORSEMENT

COMMITTEE: PERSONNEL, STUDENT, SCHOOL & COMMUNITY SUPPORT

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

Women's History Month presents us with an opportunity to not just honor but celebrate the role and contributions of women to our society. It is befitting that the notion of a celebration honoring women's history began in 1978 as the idea of a local education task force in Sonoma County, California. It is in large part because of education, the hard fought fight to its access, and the generations of teachers that imparted it, that women have not only gained footing in, but shattered the glass ceilings of careers and fields of study previously closed to them. Just two short years from its inception, President Jimmy Carter would announce the first Presidential Proclamation declaring Women's History Week in 1980. The time span for the achievement of that goal stands in sharp contrast to the time women had waited for equal voting rights and continue to wait for equal pay.

Fifty years later, education continues to play a vital role in this movement and espouses the idea of equality, access and opportunities for all. Miami-Dade County Public Schools (M-DCPS) is committed to its role in championing these efforts and has provided schools with instructional resources to support the celebration of Women's History Month. The Office of Academics and Transformation, Department of Social Sciences has developed elementary and secondary instructional resource guides to support this endeavor. The guides include background information, detailed lesson plans, internet resources, and a PowerPoint presentation. Additionally, they are sponsoring an essay contest for students in grades K-12 with writing prompts relevant to the 2020 Women's History Month Theme, *Valiant Women of the Vote*, commemorating the 100th Anniversary of the 19th Amendment which guaranteed women's right to vote. M-DCPS's long standing tradition and the Office of Academics and Transformation's efforts to support schools and student learning with these resources is to be commended.

In an era of increasing awareness and conversation surrounding the continued challenges women face in our society, we are poignantly reminded of the sacrifices made by the trailblazing suffragettes who won and safeguarded their rights. The School Board of Miami-Dade County recognizes observance of March 2020 as Women's History Month and encourages the continued study and implementation of instructional resources that support this endeavor.

**ACTION PROPOSED BY
DR. LAWRENCE S. FELDMAN:**

That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida endorse the month of March 2020 as Women's History Month and support the related efforts of Miami-Dade County Public Schools.