

Dr. Lubby Navarro, Board Member

**SUBJECT: THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA,
JOIN IN RECOGNIZING MR. BART D. CHRISTIE, PRINCIPAL OF
LEEWOOD K-8 CENTER**

COMMITTEE: FACILITIES & CONSTRUCTION

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

Mr. Bart D. Christie was born on May 8, 1961, in Miami. He is the son of Joyce and the Honorable Judge Irwin Christie, a respected Circuit Court Judge, who served Miami-Dade County. He is married to Kristine and is the doting father to four loving children.

Mr. Christie graduated from Miami Senior High School in 1979 and went on to study Elementary Education at Florida International University, where he graduated with a Bachelor of Arts degree in 1985. He continued his studies at Nova Southeastern University and in 1989 earned a Master of Science degree in Educational Leadership.

Mr. Christie began his professional career in 1985 at Greenglade Elementary as a third-grade teacher. He continued on to teach fifth and sixth grade at Joe Hall Elementary. Mr. Christie transitioned into an administrator role in 1991 as the Assistant Principal for Shenandoah Elementary. He continued to broaden his knowledge of Education as the Assistant Principal at Morningside Elementary, Silver Bluff Elementary and Flagami Elementary. In 1999, Mr. Christie was assigned his first role as Principal at Bent Tree Elementary. After five successful years, he transitioned into his current role as Principal at Leewood K-8 Center. He has been a Leewood K-8 Center “Leopard” for the past sixteen years.

Mr. Christie has worked in association with the Council of Educational Change since 2003 during his tenure at Bent Tree Elementary School and was named the initial winner of the Leonard Miller Principal Leadership Award. As a recipient of this award, he has recognized the importance of bringing others into the process of improving the school climate. He developed the concept of PST’s (Problem Solving Teams) at his current school, which involves seeking all stakeholder’s input in solving curriculum concerns and discussing data to enhance student achievement. The success of this strategy is demonstrated by an “A” grade received from the state in both schools under his leadership as Principal.

As the Principal of Leewood K-8 Center, Mr. Christie has been instrumental in receiving numerous prestigious awards such as the National Blue-Ribbon Award in 2009 and the Parent Involvement Award for the Florida PTA, Florida Department of Education (FLDOE) in 2013-2014 for a community project, "Trunk or Treat". Under his leadership, Leewood K-8 Center was also named a nationwide STEM project winner of \$100,000 from Samsung Corporation, securing the implementation of technology opportunities in the classroom with the purchase of tablets and laptops.

Mr. Christie has been a lifelong advocate of Special Needs Students and collaborated with the Special Olympics and with the Learning Resources Center. The students from this school were invited to Leewood K-8 Center to participate in activities such as field day and partnered throughout the school day with a "buddy". The overall intent of the project was for all students to sign a poster to "Spread the Word to End the Word."

After 35 years of service with Miami-Dade County Public Schools, we congratulate you on your retirement and we thank you for all your years of service to our students and teachers. Your leadership and commitment will be remembered by all that you have impacted. May you continue to find success wherever you go. We wish you a very happy retirement.

**ACTION PROPOSED BY
DR. LUBBY NAVARRO:**

That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, join in recognizing Mr. Bart D. Christie, Principal of Leewood K-8 Center.