

Ms. Susie V. Castillo, Board Member

**SUBJECT: THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA,  
JOIN IN RECOGNIZING ASSISTANT SCHOOL BOARD  
ATTORNEY MELINDA “MINDY” MCNICHOLS FOR EMBODYING  
THE TENETS OF THE 19<sup>TH</sup> AMENDMENT OF THE UNITED  
STATES CONSTITUTION BY ADVANCING THE ROLE OF  
WOMEN**

**COMMITTEE: PERSONNEL, STUDENT, SCHOOL & COMMUNITY SUPPORT**

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

The ratification of the 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment of the United States Constitution took place 100 years ago and paved the road for progress in gender equality at every level of society including the fields of law and public service. Miami-Dade County Public Schools (M-DCPS) embraces the 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment by championing women in important leadership roles throughout the school system. One of these outstanding women is Assistant School Board Attorney – Academic Programs and Compliance, Melinda “Mindy” McNichols.

Behind the passage of the 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment were women who worked tirelessly so that other women would have the right to vote, to dream, and to determine their future. Women's economic roles increased in society as did educational opportunities and a greater sense of their potential expressed in meaningful professional careers. For the entirety of her career, and the over 18 years she has been at M-DCPS, Mindy McNichols has brought the spirit and depth of this amendment to life.

Prior to joining M-DCPS, Mindy McNichols was readily dedicated to public service. She has an impressive and remarkable career highlighted by a myriad of notable appointments: Certified Court Mediator, Adjunct Professor of Constitutional Law, Guardian Ad Litem, a leader on the AIDS Project for the Dade County Bar Association, Legal Counsel and State Legislative Director for the Florida National Organization for Women, recipient of the Human Rights Award from the Dade Human Rights Foundation, two-term volunteer as the Associate President of the PTA at Springview Elementary School, and Regional Director of the Dade County PTA/PTSA, to name a few.

As a member of the M-DCPS legal team since 2002, Ms. McNichols has worked in administrative law (including due process hearings involving employment, students with disabilities, and expulsions), education law, constitutional law, exceptional student education, charter school law, federal and state appeals, employment law, contract law, legislative analysis, sunshine law and public records law, disclosure of student records and privacy law, employee and student discrimination, and developing and writing School Board policies, among others.

M-DCPS continues to recognize the importance of the 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment by honoring Mindy McNichols for her selfless example and persevering contributions to women in public service, in the practice of law, and in education throughout our school system.

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

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

That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, join in recognizing Assistant School Board Attorney Melinda "Mindy" McNichols for embodying the tenets of the 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment of the United States Constitution and thereby Advancing the Role of Women.