

Dr. Lubby Navarro, School Board Member

SUBJECT: THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA, RECOGNIZE MS. IRAIDA R. MENDEZ-CARTAYA FOR HER OVER THIRTY YEARS OF SERVICE WITH THE SCHOOL DISTRICT

COMMITTEE: FACILITIES & CONSTRUCTION

LINK TO STRATEGIC

BLUEPRINT: HIGHLY EFFECTIVE, TEACHERS, LEADERS AND STAFF

Iraida R. Mendez-Cartaya was an integral part of Miami-Dade Public Schools (M-DCPS) for many decades. She has made invaluable contributions to the school district and the community, implemented efficient and effective systematic improvements, and continually demonstrated her devotion and dedication to M-DCPS. Her strong work ethic and commitment to advancing the district has led to countless accomplishments throughout the years.

Iraida R. Mendez-Cartaya graduated from the University of Miami with a Bachelor's in Business Administration and a Master's degree in the Science of Taxation. She joined the M-DCPS team in 1989, starting as a Staff Auditor for Management Audits, later serving as a Budget Analyst with the Office of Budget Management until 1994. Ms. Mendez-Cartaya also served as the Administrative Director of Legislative and Labor Relations until 2002, and Administrative Director of State Legislative Relations and Budget Planning until 2004. Throughout the years, she rose through the ranks in the Office of Intergovernmental Affairs, Grants Administration, Community Engagement, until eventually filling the position of Associate Superintendent from 2018 to 2020.

During her time at M-DCPS, she coordinated and supervised numerous initiatives such as the passage of a countywide referendum for operating purposes valued at \$240 million, provided field expert testimony on community outreach on the Census 2020 to the Florida Latino Commission, assisted with the passage of the: General Obligation Bond valued at \$1.2 billion; Value Adjustment Board legislation, which saved \$70 million to the district; and the General Obligation Bond (GOB) legislation, which extend the life of the bond referendum from 20 years to 30 year. Ms. Mendez-Cartaya was also instrumental in the establishment of 20 education compacts with various municipalities within Miami-Dade County, and in the establishment of the M-DCPS Alumni Hall of Fame.

Ms. Mendez-Cartaya has received recognition for a wide range of personal accomplishments in her field over her many years of service to the District, including, but not limited to: The Miami-Dade County PTA/PTSA President's Award in 2010; the Greater Miami Chamber of Commerce Salut to Miami's Leaders Award in the area of Government for 2012; and the 2012 Cervantes Award for significant contributions to promote excellence in the education of Hispanic students.

In 2013, she was the recipient of the Nancy Hughes Community Commitment Award, the Dade Association of School Administrators Recognition for Outstanding Service, the Marge Pearlson Award for Community Education, and the Miami-Dade County PTA/PTSA Champion for PTA Award which went to the Office of Community Engagement. In 2015, she was named the Most Influential Woman in the area of Government and Law by Miami-Dade Parks and Recreation.

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, recognizes Ms. Iraida Mendez-Cartaya for her over 30 years of service and dedication to Miami-Dade County Public Schools.