

Dr. Dorothy Bendross-Mindingall, Board Member

**SUBJECT: THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA,
RECOGNIZE NERISSA MANELA FOR BEING NAMED THE 2021
FRANCISCO R. WALKER ROOKIE TEACHER OF THE YEAR**

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

Ms. Nerissa Manela, the 2021 Francisco R. Walker Rookie Teacher of the Year is a music teacher at Morningside K-8 Academy. Ms. Manela is originally from New Jersey, asked for violin lessons at the age of six, and it shaped her life. Her music teachers made a huge impact on her life, and by the time she was in middle school, she knew her career path would lead her to become a music teacher. Ms. Manela graduated from the University of Miami with a double major in Music Education and Music Therapy, and the University of Cambridge in the UK with a master's degree in Art, Creativity, Education and Culture.

Ms. Manela was hired as the music teacher at Morningside K-8 Academy in 2016. She has developed a curriculum that draws on her strengths as a musician and highlights various aspects of an integrated curriculum. She prepares students for multiple concerts each year and is a mentor to the student teachers she has welcomed into her classroom; and

Ms. Manela was recognized by The Florida Music Educators as a 2020 Emerging Leader. She plays an active role in the community by running a nonprofit music therapy group called Miami Jam Sessions, volunteering as Chair of a national music education company Practicing Musician, and teaching and conducting with the Greater Miami Youth Symphony. She is also a board member of the Dade County Music Educators Association and plays in the Alhambra Orchestra; and

Ms. Manela is passionate about her responsibility to create positive music experiences for her students and sharing them with her school and the community.

This item does not appear on the published agenda. There exists good cause to vary from the published agenda as the selection of the Rookie Teacher of the Year did not take place until after the agenda was published and to timely and properly recognize and honor its recipient, Ms. Nerissa Manela.

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

**ACTION PROPOSED BY
DR. DOROTHY BENDROSS-MINDINGALL:**

That The School Board Of Miami-Dade County, Florida, Recognize Nerissa Manela For Being Named The 2021 Francisco R. Walker Rookie Teacher Of The Year.

**GOOD CAUSE
H-23**

**THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA, RECOGNIZE NERISSA
MANELA FOR BEING NAMED THE 2021 FRANCISCO R. WALKER ROOKIE TEACHER OF
THE YEAR**

WHEREAS, Nerissa Manela, the 2021 Francisco R. Walker Rookie Teacher of the Year is a music teacher at Morningside K-8 Academy. Ms. Manela is originally from New Jersey, asked for violin lessons at the age of six, and it shaped her life. Her music teachers made a huge impact on her life, and by the time she was in middle school, she knew her career path would lead her to become a music teacher. Ms. Manela graduated from the University of Miami with a double major in Music Education and Music Therapy, and the University of Cambridge in the UK with a master's degree in Art, Creativity, Education and Culture; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Manela was hired as the music teacher at Morningside K-8 Academy in 2016. She has developed a curriculum that draws on her strengths as a musician and highlights various aspects of an integrated curriculum. She prepares students for multiple concerts each year and is a mentor to the student teachers she has welcomed into her classroom; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Manela was recognized by The Florida Music Educators as a 2020 Emerging Leader. She plays an active role in the community by running a nonprofit music therapy group called Miami Jam Sessions, volunteering as Chair of a national music education company Practicing Musician, and teaching and conducting with the Greater Miami Youth Symphony. She is also a board member of the Dade County Music Educators Association and plays in the Alhambra Orchestra; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Manela is passionate about her responsibility to create positive music experiences for her students and sharing them with her school and the community.;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, recognize Nerissa Manela for being named
the 2021 Francisco R. Walker Rookie Teacher of the Year.

Presented this tenth day of February, A.D. 2021

THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA

CHAIR

ATTEST:

Secretary