

Dr. Steve Gallon III, Vice Chair

**SUBJECT: THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA, RECOGNIZES MRS. VALTENA BROWN FOR HER 33 YEARS OF COMMITMENT AND SERVICE TO THE MIAMI-DADE COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

**COMMITTEE: ACADEMICS, INNOVATION, EVALUATION & TECHNOLOGY**

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

Mrs. Valtena G. Brown is the daughter of parents who dedicated their lives to community service. "Spike and Betty's daughter" is not just an identifier of who she is, but a description of the life she leads; and the life she was destined for. It is a life dedicated to community service forged by parents that believed in God, community, and family. Throughout her life, she has worked with senior citizens for their betterment; worked in concert with the school system collectively and independently for the betterment of children, parents, and families. In addition to this, Mrs. Brown has also dedicated her services to her church and sorority; and has sponsored and participated in events to bring the issues of at-risk families to the forefront while working collectively to find solutions for adversities that plague the community.

Mrs. Valtena G. Brown, a life-long educator of 33 years, served as the Superintendent/Chief Operating Officer for Miami- Dade County Public Schools for nearly 9 years. She was responsible for the operational function of all Pre- K - 12 and Adult/ Vocational schools, in the fourth largest school system in the United States. Her role also included the supervision of Transportation, Food and Nutrition, Operations, Athletic/Activities, Charter Schools Operations and Alternative Education.

Prior to that appointment, Mrs. Brown served as region superintendent, assistant superintendent, administrative director, principal, assistant principal and counselor for Miami-Dade County Public Schools. She implemented programs that directly impacted student achievement, community awareness and family engagement; creating afterschool and evening care for students until 8:00 p.m. This allowed working parents in the southernmost part of Dade County who worked in Monroe and in the agricultural fields, a safe haven for their children until they completed their work. Mrs. Brown created mentorship programs for middle school girls providing them with opportunities to interact with women and an avenue for exchange of concerns and ideas; and created opportunities for cultural, educational and social experiences. Fostering professional development, she established forums for young educators and aspiring administrators to exchange ideas and be provided with sound information to assist with their professional endeavors. In addition, under her leadership as region superintendent, there was an insurgence of choice options for students and parents.

In the community Mrs. Brown created adult literacy classes to assist parents to support and accelerate daily lessons learned by their children. This initiative provided classroom teachers in community centers, migrant camps, and churches an opportunity to reteach student lessons to their parents. Recognized as one of the first Drug Free School of Excellence Program school districts in the United States, she established an anonymous reporting and request for assistance hotline. The program bridged divergent communities through parent workshops and community-based counseling sessions at close proximity to student's homes. Equally important, she served on the City of South Miami Parks and Recreation Board during the approval and expansion of youth programming which included literacy and recreational activities.

Valtena G. Brown is married to Isaac and is the mother of Isha and Isaac, Jr. and the grandmother of Braylen. She is a member of Beta Tau Zeta Chapter of Zeta Phi Beta Sorority and Mt. Zion Missionary Baptist Church. She holds a master's degree in Community Psychology as well as advanced certificates in Education and Educational Leadership. She has served as a guest lecturer and presenter throughout Florida and the United States.

Mrs. Brown's mission is to enrich the lives of children, families and communities, each child, each family and each community.

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

**ACTION PROPOSED BY  
DR. STEVE GALLON III:**

That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, recognizes Mrs. Valtena Brown for her 33 years of commitment and service to Miami-Dade County Public Schools.