

Ms. Lucia Baez-Geller, School Board Member

Co-Sponsors: Ms. Perla Tabares Hantman, Chair
Dr. Dorothy Bendross-Mindingall
Ms. Christi Fraga
Dr. Marta Pérez
Ms. Maria Teresa Rojas
Ms. Luisa Santos

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SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION NO. 21-004 OF THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA, RECOGNIZING THE DAYS OF REMEMBRANCE OF THE VICTIMS OF THE HOLOCAUST TO BE APRIL 4 THROUGH APRIL 11, 2021 INCLUDING THE DAY OF REMEMBRANCE KNOWN AS YOM HASHOAH, APRIL 8, 2021, TO BE OBSERVED IN ALL MIAMI-DADE COUNTY'S PUBLIC SCHOOLS WITH THE INCLUSION OF THE INTERNATIONAL HOLOCAUST REMEMBRANCE ALLIANCE'S WORKING DEFINITION OF ANTISEMITISM

COMMITTEE: ACADEMICS, INNOVATION, EVALUATION & TECHNOLOGY

LINK TO STRATEGIC

FRAMEWORK: RELEVANT, RIGOROUS, AND INNOVATIVE ACADEMICS

The United States Congress established the Days of Remembrance as our nation's annual commemoration of the Holocaust and created the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum as a permanent living memorial to the victims. This year's Days of Remembrance takes place from April 4 through April 11, 2021 including the Day of Remembrance known as Yom Hashoah on April 8, 2021.

Each year, Miami-Dade County Public Schools emphasizes Holocaust education to teach children tolerance so that such crimes are not repeated against any group. Training is conducted for teachers at the University of Miami, and Holocaust Remembrance Week is held in cooperation with the Holocaust Memorial in Miami Beach.

Schools throughout the District receive an updated curriculum packet from the Department of Social Sciences and Holocaust survivors visit schools on request throughout April and May. Remembrance obligates us not only to memorialize those who were killed, but also to reflect on what could have been done to save them. Those who survived tell us that as many faced their horrific deaths, their last words were "Remember us. Tell our story." With an alarming rise in antisemitism in the United States and throughout the world, it is becoming even more critical to teach the lessons of the past to improve the future.

On February 1, 2021, President Joseph Biden's Deputy Assistant Secretary of State Kara McDonald stated at the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe Expert Meeting on Combatting Antisemitism: "We must educate ourselves and our communities to recognize antisemitism in its many forms, so that we can call hate by its proper name and take effective action.

That is why the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance's working definition of antisemitism, with its real-world examples, is such an invaluable tool. As prior U.S. administrations of both political stripes have done, the Biden administration embraces and champions the working definition. We applaud the growing number of countries and international bodies that apply it. We urge all that haven't done so to do likewise."

The International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance's working definition of antisemitism reads as follows: "Antisemitism is a certain perception of Jews which may be expressed as hatred towards Jews. Rhetorical and physical manifestations of antisemitism are directed toward Jewish or non-Jewish individuals and/or their property, toward Jewish community institutions and religious facilities."

As one of the oldest forms of hatred, antisemitism is unique in that genocidal aspirations are global in nature and extend beyond national borders.

As the distinguished historian Paul Johnson wrote in his highly respected book, "The History of the Jews," "one of the principal lessons of Jewish history has been that repeated verbal slanders are sooner or later followed by violent physical deeds. Time and again over the centuries, antisemitic writings have created their own fearful momentum which climaxed in an effusion of Jewish blood."

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

**ACTION PROPOSED BY
MS. LUCIA BAEZ-GELLER:**

That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida:

1. approve Resolution No. 21-004 of The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, recognizing the Days of Remembrance of the Victims of the Holocaust to be April 4 through April 11, 2021, including the Day of Remembrance known as Yom Hashoah, April 8, 2021, to be observed in all Miami-Dade County Public Schools;
2. direct the Superintendent to explore including in the annually updated curriculum packet from the Department of Social Sciences the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance's working definition of antisemitism, with its real-world examples; and
3. authorize the Superintendent to consider the implementation of mentioning Holocaust Remembrance on April 8, 2021, during the existing daily moment of silence at every school.

**REQUEST FOR APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION NO. 21-004
OF THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA,
RECOGNIZING THE DAYS OF REMEMBRANCE OF THE VICTIMS OF THE
HOLOCAUST TO BE APRIL 4 THROUGH APRIL 11, 2021 INCLUDING THE DAY OF
REMEMBRANCE KNOWN AS YOM HASHOAH, APRIL 8, 2021, TO BE OBSERVED
IN ALL MIAMI-DADE COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

WHEREAS, the United States Congress established the Days of Remembrance as our nation's annual commemoration of the Holocaust and created the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum as a permanent living memorial to the victims; and

WHEREAS, this year, Days of Remembrance takes place from April 4 through April 11, 2021, including the Day of Remembrance known as Yom Hashoah, April 8, 2021; and

WHEREAS, each year, Miami-Dade County Public Schools emphasizes Holocaust education to teach children tolerance so that such crimes are not repeated against any group by having survivors speak to students; and

WHEREAS, remembrance obligates us not only to memorialize those who were killed, but also to reflect on what could have been done to save them. Those who survived tell us that as many faced their horrific deaths their last words were "Remember us. Tell our story;"

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, approve Resolution No. 21-004 of The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, recognizing the Days of Remembrance of the Victims of the Holocaust to be April 4 through April 11, 2021, including the Day of Remembrance known as Yom Hashoah, April 8, 2021, to be observed in all Miami-Dade County Public Schools with the inclusion of a moment of silence, and the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance's working definition of antisemitism, with its real-world examples.

A copy of this resolution is placed in the permanent records of this Board.

Presented this seventeenth day of March, A.D. 2021

THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA

CHAIR

ATTEST:

Secretary