

Ms. Maria Teresa Rojas, Board Member

SUBJECT: SCHOOL BOARD ENDORSEMENT OF MAY 7, 2021, AS SCHOOL LUNCH HERO DAY IN MIAMI-DADE COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS (M-DCPS)

COMMITTEE: PERSONNEL, STUDENT, SCHOOL & COMMUNITY SUPPORT

LINK TO STRATEGIC

BLUEPRINT: HIGHLY EFFECTIVE TEACHERS, LEADERS AND STAFF

School Lunch Hero Day is celebrated annually the first Friday in the month of May. It is a day of celebration to show our appreciation to the professionals who help make meals for America's students. *School Lunch Hero Day* was created by a partnership between the School Nutrition Association and children's author Jarret Krosoczka, the writer of a number of picture books including the "Lunch Lady" series.

Our school cafeteria employees are outstanding professionals who not only include the staff who design and implement the strict nutrition standards needed in our schools, but also the incredible cafeteria workers who make sure that all students are fed daily. They are our heroes, and this day is designed to show them the appreciation they deserve but never ask to receive.

M-DCPS food and nutrition employees arrive at work in their school kitchens before dawn to prepare school breakfast and have worked in the evening distributing meals to remote learners since the pandemic shutdown in March 2020. M-DCPS food and nutrition staff ensure all students have access to fresh, healthy foods to support their growth and achievement. Since the start of the pandemic, food and nutrition personnel have distributed over 23 million meals to students without interruption. They have never stopped working to provide meals to students and safely serve our in-person learners school meals when students returned to our buildings in October 2020. They are truly our unsung heroes.

Miami-Dade County Public Schools salute and honor the Department of Food and Nutrition, The American Federation of State, County, and Municipal Employees (AFSCME), Local 1184, the exclusive bargaining agent for Miami-Dade County Public Schools' (M-DCPS), representing food service employees, and the over 2,600 M-DCPS school lunch heroes, as we celebrate May 7, 2021, *School Lunch Hero Day*.

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

**ACTION PROPOSED BY
MS. MARIA TERESA ROJAS:**

That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, endorse May 7, 2021, as *School Lunch Hero Day* in Miami-Dade County Public Schools.