

Dr. Lubby Navarro, Board Member

SUBJECT: REQUEST APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION NO. 22-010 OF THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA, RECOGNIZING MS. ROSA MARÍA PAYÁ

COMMITTEE: PERSONNEL, STUDENT, SCHOOL & COMMUNITY SUPPORT

LINK TO STRATEGIC PLAN: INFORMED, ENGAGED, & EMPOWERED STAKEHOLDERS

Rosa María Payá Acevedo is a Cuban democracy activist and human rights defender. In 2015, she founded the citizen initiative Cuba Decide, a movement in favor of changing the political and economic systems in Cuba towards democracy, through a plebiscite. She is the daughter of the late Oswaldo Payá, the recipient of the European Parliament's Sakharov Prize and two-time nominee of the Nobel Peace Prize. Her father was killed by the regime in 2012. Rosa María is a graduate of Physics at the University of Havana and of the Global Competitive Leadership program at Georgetown University. She has been a lecturer and guest of honor at various universities throughout the United States and Latin America, as well as at the UN, the Concordia Summit of the Americas, the Freedom Forum, the US Congress, and multiple parliaments in Europe and the Americas.

In 2022, she was conferred *The Common Sense Courage Award* for her strength facing opposition and championing the principles of liberty, prosperity and beauty. She is the recipient of the Congressional Hispanic Leadership Institute (CHLI) Ileana Ros-Lehtinen International Leadership Award for her global advocacy and leadership. She has also received the Morris Abram Human Rights Award granted by UN Watch and the Casa Cuba Award in Tampa, Florida, and the keys to the City of Miami, a city that has established an annual day in honor of this Cuban activist and that, thanks to the work of Cuba Decide platform, has declared July 22 as the Day of Victims of Communism in America. In 2013, she was selected as one of the “25 most powerful women” according to *People en Español* magazine.

She is the Honorary President of the Latin American Youth Network for Democracy, an organization with which she established, in collaboration with the Pan American Democracy Foundation, the Oswaldo Payá Prize “Libertad y Vida” that, since 2016, seeks to recognize people and institutions that have made extraordinary contributions to the defense of democracy. Her work has made her part of the Global Americans New Generation of Public Intellectuals initiative in 2018.

Ms. Payá Acevedo is to be commended for her commitment to servant leadership.

**ACTION PROPOSED BY
DR. LUBBY NAVARRO:**

That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, approve Resolution No. 22-010 of The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, recognizing Ms. Rosa María Payá Acevedo for her continued service to our community and her commitment to establishing democracy in Cuba.

**RESOLUTION NO. 22-010 OF THE SCHOOL BOARD OF
MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA, RECOGNIZING MS. ROSA MARÍA PAYÁ ACEVEDO
FOR HER COMMITMENT TO SERVANT LEADERSHIP AND COMMUNITY SERVICE.**

WHEREAS, Ms. Rosa María Payá Acevedo is a Cuban democracy activist and human rights defender. In 2015, she founded the citizen initiative Cuba Decide, a movement in favor of changing the political and economic systems in Cuba towards democracy, through a plebiscite. Rosa María is a graduate of Physics at the University of Havana and of the Global Competitive Leadership program at Georgetown University. She has been a lecturer and guest of honor at various universities throughout the United States and Latin America, as well as at the UN, the Concordia Summit of the Americas, the Freedom Forum, the US Congress, and multiple parliaments in Europe and the Americas; and

WHEREAS, in 2022, she was conferred *The Common Sense Courage Award* for her strength facing opposition and championing the principles of liberty, prosperity and beauty. She is the recipient of the Congressional Hispanic Leadership Institute (CHLI) Ileana Ros-Lehtinen International Leadership Award for her global advocacy and leadership. She has also received the Morris Abram Human Rights Award granted by UN Watch and the Casa Cuba Award in Tampa, Florida, and the keys to the City of Miami, a city that has established an annual day in honor of this Cuban activist and that, thanks to the work of Cuba Decide platform, has declared July 22 as the Day of Victims of Communism in America. In 2013, she was selected as one of the “25 most powerful women” according to *People en Español* magazine; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Rosa María Payá Acevedo is the Honorary President of the Latin American Youth Network for Democracy, an organization with which she established, in collaboration with the Pan American Democracy Foundation, the Oswaldo Payá Prize “Libertad y Vida” that, since 2016, seeks to recognize people and institutions that have made extraordinary contributions to the defense of democracy. Her work has made her part of the Global Americans New Generation of Public Intellectuals initiative in 2018; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Rosa María Payá Acevedo is to be commended for her leadership, her drive to fight for democracy and freedom for those that live oppressed under the Communist regime, and for ultimately making sure that those silent voices are heard in the country and around the world.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, approve Resolution No. 22-010 of The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, recognizing Ms. Rosa María Payá Acevedo for continued selfless service and for her strength in the face of opposition and championing the principles of liberty, and prosperity.

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

Presented this ninth day of March, A.D. 2022

THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA

CHAIR

ATTEST:

Secretary