

Ms. Lucia Baez-Geller, School Board Member

**SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION NO. 22-016 OF
THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA,
RECOGNIZING THE FTX CHARITY HACKATHON TEAMS FROM
ALONZO AND TRACY MOURNING SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL**

COMMITTEE: ACADEMICS, INNOVATION, EVALUATION & TECHNOLOGY

LINK TO STRATEGIC

PLAN: INFORMED, ENGAGED, & EMPOWERED STAKEHOLDERS

On Sunday, March 13, 2022, several student teams from across South Florida participated in the FTX Charity Hackathon, which culminated in a “Shark Tank” finals competition in front of a panel of celebrity judges, including Kevin O’Leary, Udonis Haslem, David Ortiz, and Whitney Cummings. The goal was to pitch their best idea to improve mental or physical health to win the grand prize of \$1 million to fund their idea.

Two student teams from Alonzo and Tracy Mourning Senior High School (ATM), coached by Ms. Molly Winters Diallo, Social Studies Department Chair and 2019 M-DCPS Teacher of the Year, competed against two teams from Broward County and one team from Palm Beach County.

The ATM teams were “Social Seniors” and “Hear Me Out”. “Social Seniors” is a project that aims to connect high school juniors and seniors with our community’s local senior citizens. Through this project, high school students will not only accumulate volunteer hours, but they will also gain advice, knowledge and a deeper understanding of the older generation. Our senior citizens will also benefit from the companionship of our students. Team members include Anthony Vega, Luca Caicedo, Andres Gonzalez and Michael McKenzie.

“Hear Me Out” is a music therapy initiative that aims to implement afterschool music programs that will give students a creative outlet to help support mental and emotional health through instruments and digital music apps. Team members include Megan Pierre, Kaley Reinhartz, Alannah Williams, Vallentina Oliveira and Andres Bonilla.

Out of almost 100 teams that applied, and five finalists, both ATM teams finished the competition with prize money to fund their mental health initiatives. “Social Seniors” won the judges’ vote, and was one of two teams that won first prize, with a grand total of \$500,000 to fund their idea. “Hear Me Out” was favored the FTX Foundation’s CEO and family, and they received \$50,000. All members of the final teams were also awarded \$15,000 in scholarships.

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

That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, approve Resolution No. 22-016 of The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, recognizing the FTX Charity Hackathon teams from Alonzo and Tracy Mourning Senior High School.

**APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION NO. 22-016
OF THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA,
RECOGNIZING THE FTX CHARITY HACKATHON TEAMS FROM ALONZO AND TRACY
MOURNING SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL**

WHEREAS, on Sunday, March 13, 2022, several student teams from across South Florida participated in the FTX Charity Hackathon, which culminated in a “Shark Tank” finals competition in front of a panel of celebrity judges, including Kevin O’Leary, Udonis Haslem, David Ortiz, and Whitney Cummings. The goal was to pitch their best idea to improve mental or physical health to win the grand prize of \$1 million to fund their idea; and

WHEREAS, two student teams from Alonzo and Tracy Mourning Senior High School (ATM), coached by Ms. Molly Winters Diallo, Social Studies Department Chair and 2019 M-DCPS Teacher of the Year, competed against two teams from Broward County and one team from Palm Beach County; and

WHEREAS, the ATM teams were “Social Seniors” and “Hear Me Out”. “Social Seniors” is a project that aims to connect high school juniors and seniors with our community’s local senior citizens. Through this project, high school students will not only accumulate volunteer hours, but they will also gain advice, knowledge and a deeper understanding of the older generation. Our senior citizens will also benefit from the companionship of our students. Team members include Anthony Vega, Luca Caicedo, Andres Gonzalez and Michael McKenzie; and

WHEREAS, “Hear Me Out” is a music therapy initiative that aims to implement afterschool music programs that will give students a creative outlet to help support mental and emotional health through instruments and digital music apps. Team members include Megan Pierre, Kaley Reinhartz, Alannah Williams, Vallentina Oliveira and Andres Bonilla; and

WHEREAS, out of almost 100 teams that applied, and five finalists, both ATM teams finished the competition with prize money to fund their mental health initiatives. “Social Seniors” won the judges’ vote, and was one of two teams that won first prize, with a grand total of \$500,000 to fund their idea. “Hear Me Out” was favored by the FTX Foundation’s CEO and family, and they received \$50,000. All members of the final teams were also awarded \$15,000 in scholarships; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, approve Resolution No. 22-016 of The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, recognizing the FTX Charity Hackathon teams from Alonzo and Tracy Mourning Senior High School.

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

Presented this thirteenth day of April, A.D. 2022

THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA

CHAIR

ATTEST:

Secretary