

Dr. Dorothy Bendross-Mindingall, Board Member

Co-Sponsors: Ms. Perla Tabares Hantman, Chair  
Dr. Steve Gallon III, Vice Chair } REVISED AT DAIS BY BOARD ACTION  
Ms. Lucia Baez-Geller  
Ms. Christi Fraga } REVISED AT DAIS BY BOARD ACTION  
Dr. Lubby Navarro  
Dr. Marta Pérez  
Ms. Maria Teresa Rojas } REVISED AT DAIS BY BOARD ACTION  
Ms. Luisa Santos

**SUBJECT: THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA,  
RECOGNIZE AND OBSERVE MAY 2022 AS HAITIAN HERITAGE  
MONTH AND AUTHORIZE ADMINISTRATIVE ACTIONS TO  
FOSTER RELATED ACTIVITIES**

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

**LINK TO STRATEGIC  
PLAN: RELEVANT, RIGOROUS, & INNOVATIVE ACADEMICS**

Throughout the history of Haiti, May has been a month for commemorating Haitian culture, with Haitians across the globe celebrating their achievements and contributions. An important date in Haitian history is May 18, 1803, when the official Haitian flag, of blue and red was created by Haitian leaders at the end of the Congress of Arcahaie. Haitian Heritage Month provides our very diverse community an opportunity to recognize and celebrate the many historic, cultural, social, and economic contributions of Haitians to the United States and the world. The observance of Haitian Heritage Month will allow students, their families, and the community to share in the rich culture and history of Haiti.

On January 1, 1804, Haiti gained its independence from France to become the world's first Black republic and the second in the Americas to free itself from colonial rule. For over a century later, the Haitian people assisted in the liberation of slaves throughout South America and the Western Hemisphere. The people of Haiti and their descendants have also made numerous contributions to politics, as well as the arts and sciences. Jean Baptiste Point DuSable is known as the founder of the city of Chicago. The National Audubon Society was founded in honor of John James Audubon, a Haitian born nationalist, ornithologist, and artist. Miami-Dade County Public Schools provides students with many programs that emphasize multicultural education, positive inter-group relations, and cultural sensitivity to promote understanding and harmony among people of all cultures.

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

**ACTION PROPOSED BY  
DR. DOROTHY BENDROSS-MINDINGALL:** That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, observe the month of May 2022 as Haitian Heritage Month.