

Ms. Maria Teresa Rojas, Board Member

SUBJECT: REQUEST APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION NO. 22-031 OF THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA, RECOGNIZING MR. OCTAVIO J. VISIEDO, FORMER SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS FOR MIAMI-DADE COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS, CELEBRATING 50 YEARS IN EDUCATION

COMMITTEE: PERSONNEL, STUDENT, SCHOOL & COMMUNITY SUPPORT

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

Many of the same qualities and behaviors that are valued and admired in a teacher are invaluable in a leader trying to create a better school or a school district learning environment. As teachers are at the heart of a classroom encouraging and motivating student success, educational leaders are at the center of a community driving student, teacher, school, and district-wide success.

No matter what an individual's management style may be, there are certain universal characteristics that are crucial to be a successful educational leader. Some of the traits that an effective leader should have include integrity, humility, courage, dedication, compassion, honesty, a visionary, respect and admiration for his or her peers, honest and sincere communication skills, and the power to positively sway students, parents and the workforce, among others. **These characteristics are exemplified in Mr. Octavio J. Visiedo, a respected and admired educator for over 50 years.**

Mr. Visiedo began his employment with Miami-Dade County Public Schools (M-DCPS) as a 19-year-old bus aide. He ascended through the ranks, step by step, and served as a teacher, assistant principal, Director, Executive Director, Assistant Superintendent, and Deputy Superintendent, which uniquely qualified and prepared him to lead M-DCPS through historically challenging times.

Mr. Visiedo had the honor of being appointed as the first Cuban American Superintendent of Schools in the history of Miami-Dade County Public Schools. He was also the first M-DCPS graduate to lead the fourth largest school district in the nation from 1990 through 1996.

Under Mr. Visiedo's leadership as Superintendent of Schools, the \$1.5 billion construction program that languished for several years was placed back on track, expanded pre-kindergarten programs, raised over \$1.2 million of private funding for scholarships in 1996 and a total of over \$4 million during his tenure as Superintendent, and most importantly led the recovery of M-DCPS after Hurricane Andrew, at the time, the single largest national disaster in the history of the United States. As a result, Mr. Visiedo was honored by being recognized as one of three Heroes of Hurricane Andrew.

Educational leaders throughout the nation have recognized Mr. Visiedo's tenure as one of the most successful of any large city superintendents in the United States.

At the end of his tenure as Superintendent of Schools for Miami-Dade County Public Schools, and in search of different challenges, he transitioned to the private sector. He proceeded to raise over \$55 million from Wall Street to establish Chancellor Academies, a charter school management company, serving charter schools and tuition-based private schools in nine states and the District of Columbia with more than 20,000 students in pre-kindergarten to 12th grade.

Currently, Mr. Visiedo serves as Senior Advisor for the College of Arts, Science, and Education at Florida International University (FIU). He also serves as Faculty/Research Associate with Ratcliffe Art + Design Incubator, an initiative aimed to promote and foster social entrepreneurship and innovation among upcoming FIU artists and designers.

A graduate of Miami Springs Senior High School, Mr. Visiedo received his Bachelor of Arts in Political Science and a Master of Science in Education from the University of Miami, Coral Gables, Florida.

Mr. Visiedo is a nationally recognized leader who transformed Miami-Dade County Public Schools for the better with exceptional and effective leadership and administrative skills. The School Board of Miami-Dade County Public Schools is proud to honor Mr. Octavio J. Visiedo as he celebrates 50 years in education.

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

That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, approve Resolution No. 22-031 of The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, recognizing Mr. Octavio J. Visiedo, celebrating 50 years in education.

**RESOLUTION NO. 22-031 OF THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY,
FLORIDA, RECOGNIZING MR. OCTAVIO J. VISIEDO,
CELEBRATING 50 YEARS IN EDUCATION**

WHEREAS, Mr. Visiedo began his employment with Miami-Dade County Public Schools (M-DCPS) as a 19-year-old bus aide;

WHEREAS, he ascended through the ranks, step by step, and served as a teacher, assistant principal, Director, Executive Director, Assistant Superintendent, and Deputy Superintendent;

WHEREAS, Mr. Visiedo had the honor of being appointed as the first Cuban American Superintendent of Schools in the history of Miami-Dade County Public Schools. He was also the first M-DCPS graduate to lead the fourth largest school district in the nation from 1990 through 1996;

WHEREAS, at the end of his tenure as Superintendent of Schools for Miami-Dade County Public Schools, and in search of different challenges, he transitioned to the private sector. He proceeded to raise over \$55 million from Wall Street to establish Chancellor Academies, a charter school management company, serving charter schools and tuition-based private schools in nine states and the District of Columbia with more than 20,000 students in pre-kindergarten to 12th grade;

WHEREAS, currently, Mr. Visiedo serves as Senior Advisor for the College of Arts, Science, and Education at Florida International University (FIU). He also serves as Faculty/Research Associate with Ratcliffe Art + Design Incubator, an initiative aimed to promote and foster social entrepreneurship and innovation among upcoming FIU artists and designers; and

WHEREAS, a graduate of Miami Springs Senior High School, Mr. Visiedo received his Bachelor of Arts in Political Science and a Master of Science in Education from the University of Miami, Coral Gables, Florida.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, approve Resolution NO. 22-031 of the School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, recognizing Mr. Octavio J. Visiedo, celebrating 50 years in education.

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

Presented this twenty second day of June, A. D. 2022

THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA

CHAIR

ATTEST:

Secretary