

Ms. Maria Teresa Rojas, Board Member

SUBJECT: REQUEST APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION NO. 22-041 OF THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA, RECOGNIZING MR. BENNY VALDES, PRINCIPAL, MIAMI SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL

COMMITTEE: PERSONNEL, STUDENT, SCHOOL, & COMMUNITY SUPPORT

LINK TO STRATEGIC PLAN: HIGHLY EFFECTIVE TEACHERS, LEADERS, & STAFF

The high school experience can be viewed as the educational journey where students can learn, explore, and prepare for the future as they decide to seek a college education, enter the world-of-work, join the military, and become independent adults and citizens of the world. High school is the perfect opportunity to identify the strengths and interests students may have as they set themselves for a future of success. The high school prepares students in areas far beyond the classroom curriculum. High school helps students to research, listen, lead, be creative and innovative, and collaborate.

Located in Little Havana, students at Miami Senior High School, one of the oldest high schools in Miami-Dade County have been provided these experiences since 1903. In the 1960s, the school quickly converted into an educational prominent facility serving a Cuban American student majority. Many of these new arrivals became outstanding and leading citizens not only in Miami-Dade County, but throughout the nation. With a rich alumni base, graduates of the high school went on to varied, prominent careers in film and television; in major league sports like the NFL, the NBA, and the MLB; in politics; and in education, just to name a few. One of those distinguished alumni is Mr. Benny Valdes, a graduate of Miami Senior High School, an assistant principal at the school, and currently serving as the school principal since 2009.

Mr. Valdes was born in Miami, Florida, and raised in Little Havana. He attended Citrus Grove Elementary School and Citrus Grove Middle School. He graduated from Miami Senior High School in 1989 where he was a dedicated, committed, and outstanding basketball player recognized as an All City Point Guard and winning two state championships. During his senior high school year, the team was ranked second in the nation.

After graduating from Miami Senior High School, Mr. Valdes received an athletic scholarship to attend Palm Beach Community College and then Florida International University (FIU). At FIU, he was a scholar athlete as a point guard, and ultimately the team won the conference championship.

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His education career began in 1994 when he was hired as a teacher at George Washington Carver Middle School. In 2002, he returned to his roots at Miami Senior High School and became an assistant principal until his promotion as principal in 2009. As principal, Mr. Valdes has led the school in academics, athletics, and graduation rates and in 2019, for the first time ever, Miami Senior High School received an “A” school grade.

Mr. Valdes has received other awards in his career. In 2010, he was honored with the Cervantes Award from Nova Southeastern University; and in 2014, he received the Florida Tax Watch Principal Leadership Award. Mr. Valdes earned his Bachelor’s degree in Physical Education from Florida International University and a Master’s degree in Educational Leadership from Nova Southeastern University. Furthermore, Mr. Valdes lives in the Miami High neighborhood, serving not only students, but parents and citizens in the community he loves.

The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, is proud to honor Mr. Benny Valdes, Miami Senior High School Principal, for his tireless dedication, commitment, and continuous support to the school community.

ACTION PROPOSED BY

MS. MARIA TERESA ROJAS: That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, approve Resolution No. 22-041 of The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, recognizing Mr. Benny Valdes, Principal, Miami Senior High School.

**RESOLUTION NO. 22-041 OF THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA,
RECOGNIZING MR. BENNY VALDES, PRINCIPAL,
MIAMI SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL**

WHEREAS, Mr. Benny Valdes is a distinguished alumnus of Miami Senior High School, serving as an assistant principal at the school, and currently as the principal since 2009;

WHEREAS, Mr. Valdes was born in Miami, Florida, and raised in Little Havana. He attended Citrus Grove Elementary School and Citrus Grove Middle School;

WHEREAS, he graduated from Miami Senior High School in 1989 and was a dedicated, committed, and outstanding basketball player recognized as an All City Point Guard and winning two state championships. During his senior high school year, the team was ranked second in the nation;

WHEREAS, after graduating from Miami Senior High School, Mr. Valdes received an athletic scholarship to attend Palm Beach Community College and then Florida International University (FIU). At FIU, he was a scholar athlete as a point guard, and ultimately the team won the conference championship;

WHEREAS, his education career began in 1994 when he was hired as a teacher at George Washington Carver Middle School. In 2002, he returned to his roots at Miami Senior High School and became an assistant principal until his promotion as principal in 2009. As principal, Mr. Valdes has led the school in academics, athletics, and graduation rates and in 2019, for the first time ever, Miami Senior High School received an "A" school grade;

WHEREAS, in 2010, he was honored with the Cervantes Award from Nova Southeastern University; and in 2014, he received the Florida Tax Watch Principal Leadership Award; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Valdes earned his Bachelor's degree in Physical Education from Florida International University and a Master's degree in Educational Leadership from Nova Southeastern University.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, approve Resolution No. 22-041 of the
School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, recognizing Mr. Benny Valdes, Principal,
Miami Senior High School

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

Presented this nineteenth day of October, A. D. 2022

THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA

SCHOOL BOARD CHAIR

ATTEST:

Secretary