

Ms. Lucia Baez-Geller, School Board Member

SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION NO. 22-048 OF THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA, RECOGNIZING BOOKS FOR YOU AND FOUNDER, MR. ALEJANDRO BARRIGA

COMMITTEE: PERSONNEL, STUDENT, SCHOOL & COMMUNITY SUPPORT

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

Books for You is a nonprofit organization that was first established by Alejandro Barriga, a current student at the University of Miami. In March 2020, while in high school, Mr. Barriga created Books for You to distribute new or used books, both nonfiction and fiction, to community centers, schools, or organizations in need of materials. The organization was born as a response to the need for equitable access to literature, especially in low-income communities.

Throughout the first few weeks of March, Mr. Barriga began to collect donations from his peers, as well as different tutoring centers around the City of Doral. However, later that month, as businesses and schools began to close due to the COVID-19 pandemic, Books for You had to shift directions and implement new social media and networking strategies. Through the Books for You website and Instagram account, Mr. Barriga began to reach out virtually to collect and distribute donations.

Books for You has collected and donated more than 70,000 books in the past two years, locally, statewide, and internationally. In Miami-Dade County, Books for You has partnered with Joe DiMaggio Children's Hospital Foundation, Nicklaus 4 Kids, Big Brothers Big Sisters, Florida International University, Rotary Clubs, and Miami-Dade County Public Schools to further its mission. Most recently, the District 3 School Board office received a donation of 400 children's books to give to the Children's Trust and fill their community bookshelves across the district. The organization also has volunteers and student ambassadors throughout the county to pick up donations, filter books by genres and age group, and contact entities in need of donations.

The organization's mission is to foster a love of reading and encourage readers to expand their horizons through literature. Through these thousands of donations, Books for You is working towards its mission and ensuring that all children, in every corner of the county, have equitable access to many different types of reading material. Books for You has positively impacted thousands of students across Miami-Dade County and has opened so many new doors and opportunities for those in need.

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**APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION NO. 22-048
OF THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA, RECOGNIZING BOOKS FOR YOU AND
FOUNDER, MR. ALEJANDRO BARRIGA**

WHEREAS, Books for You is a nonprofit organization that was first established by Alejandro Barriga, a current student at the University of Miami. In March 2020, while in high school, Mr. Barriga created Books for You to distribute new or used books, both nonfiction and fiction, to community centers, schools, or organizations in need of materials. The organization was born as a response to the need for equitable access to literature, especially in low-income communities; and

WHEREAS, throughout the first few weeks of March, Mr. Barriga began to collect donations from his peers, as well as different tutoring centers around the City of Doral. However, later that month, as businesses and schools began to close due to the COVID-19 pandemic, Books for You had to shift directions and implement new social media and networking strategies. Through the Books for You website and Instagram account, Mr. Barriga began to reach out virtually to collect and distribute donations; and

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WHEREAS, the organization's mission is to foster a love of reading and encourage readers to expand their horizons through literature. Through these thousands of donations, Books for You is working towards its mission and ensuring that all children, in every corner of the county, have equitable access to many different types of reading material. Books for You has positively impacted thousands of students across Miami-Dade County and has opened so many new doors and opportunities for those in need;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, approve Resolution No. 22-048 of The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, recognizing Books for You and founder, Mr. Alejandro Barriga.

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

Presented this sixteenth day of November, A.D. 2022

THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA

SCHOOL BOARD CHAIR

ATTEST:

Secretary