

Ms. Luisa Santos, Board Member

**SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION NO. 23-012 OF THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA, RECOGNIZING DISTRICT 9 DANCE NATIONAL CHAMPIONS**

**COMMITTEE: PERSONNEL, STUDENT, SCHOOL & COMMUNITY SUPPORT**

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

Our Miami-Dade County Public Schools are filled with talented students who always show us just how far hard work and determination can go. This past February, two District 9 schools competed at the 2023 UDA National Dance Team Championship and brought home national titles. We honor the Southwood Middle School dance team who won first place in Jazz, the Coral Reef Senior High School Varsity Cudettes who won first place in Hip Hop and Jazz, and the Junior Varsity Cudettes who won first place in Hip Hop. Congratulations to these National Title holders, and their coaches, Mrs. Hilda Jimenez, and Ms. Rebecca Santalo, on these victories.

Mrs. Hilda Jimenez has been the dance teacher at Southwood Middle School for the last thirty years. Although she did not come from a dance competition background, she found it to be a high value opportunity for students to represent their school and be proud of their work. Comradery and working together is at the forefront of her teaching philosophy. She wants her dancers to know that they can reach high standards together. "We rise together, We fall together, We get through it together," is the motto for Mrs. Jimenez and her dancers. And since 1997 when the team won their first national championship, they have been doing just that. This year, they again placed first in the nation even though only four of the twenty students were returning dancers. They worked relentlessly for the last six months proving on the national stage that hard work and dedication pay off.

The Southwood Middle School dance team is composed of Alyssa D. Asseo, Arisa G. Besteman, Cara Caves, Haiden Clarin, Kaitlyn Diaz, Taylor Dock, Isabella Fernandez, Rebecca Gayton, Hailey Ginsburg, Zuledava Iglesias, Demi Irias, Megan Jeanlius, Elizabeth Jimenez, Victoria Jimenez, Peyton Jones, Ma'Kayla Lewis, Demi Lopez, Mia Marin, Elle Martin, Isabella Rodriguez, Mia Rodriguez, Sophia Ron, Danielle Schwartz, and Kelsey Wong.

Ms. Rebecca Santalo spent her entire life dancing. As a founding staff member of Coral Reef Senior High, she launched the dance magnet program and JV and Varsity Cudettes dance teams in 1999. School spirit is at the core of Ms. Santalo's work. It led her to become the school's activities director all while continuing to lead the dance teams. From teamwork to overcoming hurdles, Ms. Santalo wants her dancers to walk away knowing that what they learn inside the dance room will serve as tools as they enter the real world. The Cudettes have been winning national championships since their founding and now hold forty-six national championship titles. Even though the dancers juggle AP and IB coursework with extracurriculars, they have worked together to win a national championship once again last month.

**REPLACEMENT  
B-3**

The Coral Reef Senior High School Varsity Cudettes team is composed of Mahlia Bailey, Damaris DeArmas, Angelina Etienne, Kelli Ferguson, Ryan Fernandez, Briana Gonzalez, Maite Gonzalez, Meleny Herrera, Antonella Liviero, Krystal Machado, Alyssa Mederos, Gabriela Pita, Alyssa Quintanilla, Alyssa Rosendo, Alyssa Toscano, Emma Wolff, Maria Yanez, Ella Zaharas, and Nicole Zumbimendi.

The Coral Reef Senior High School Junior Varsity Cudettes team is composed of Isabella Capote, Jasmine Rodriguez, Madison Piedra, Camila Cheveres, Jayla Valdes, Nicole Dias, Brooke Olen, Giada de la Teja, Camila Lopez, Emily Ron, Gianna Bello, Jocelyn Samaroo, Samantha Sanchez, Sophia Galindo, D'Myah Beaumont, Samantha Rodriguez, Mia Gomez, Audrinna Migoyo, and Nicole Piles.

These students and teachers exemplify excellence in and outside of the classroom. They remind us of the value of extracurricular opportunities and an education in the arts. By recognizing their current achievements, we also recognize the legacy of grit and success they have created in District 9.

**ACTION PROPOSED BY  
MS. LUISA SANTOS:**

That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, approve Resolution No. 23-008 of The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, recognizing District 9 Dance National Champions.

**RESOLUTION NO. 23-012  
OF THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA,  
RECOGNIZING DISTRICT 9 DANCE NATIONAL CHAMPIONS**

**WHEREAS**, Our Miami-Dade County Public Schools are filled with talented students who always show us just how far hard work and determination can go. This past February two District 9 schools competed at the 2023 UDA National Dance Team Championship and took home the national titles. We honor the Southwood Middle School dance team who won first place in Jazz, the Coral Reef Senior High School Varsity Cudettes who won first place in Hip Hop and Jazz, and the JV Cudettes who won first place in Hip Hop. Congratulations to these National Title holders, and their coaches, Mrs. Hilda Jimenez and Ms. Rebecca Santalo, on these victories; and

**WHEREAS**, Mrs. Hilda Jimenez has been the dance teacher at Southwood Middle School for the last thirty years. Although she did not come from a dance competition background, she found it to be a high value opportunity for students to be able to represent their school and be proud of their work. Comradery and working together is at the forefront of her teaching philosophy; she wants her dancers to know that they can reach high standards together. "We rise together, We fall together, We get through it together," is the motto for Mrs. Jimenez and her dancers. And since 1997 when the team won their first national championship, they have done just that. This year, they again placed first in the nation even though only four of the twenty students were returning dancers. They worked relentlessly for the last six months proving on the national stage that hard work and dedication pay off; and

**WHEREAS**, The Southwood Middle School dance team is composed of Alyssa D. Asseo, Arisa G. Besteman, Cara Caves, Haiden Clarin, Kaitlyn Diaz, Taylor Dock, Isabella Fernandez, Rebecca Gayton, Hailey Ginsburg, Zuledava Iglesias, Demi Irias, Megan Jeanlius, Elizabeth Jimenez, Victoria Jimenez, Peyton Jones, Ma'Kayla Lewis, Demi Lopez, Mia Marin, Elle Martin, Isabella Rodriguez, Mia Rodriguez, Sophia Ron, Danielle Schwartz, and Kelsey Wong; and

**WHEREAS**, Ms. Rebecca Santalo spent her entire life dancing. As a founding staff member of Coral Reef Senior High, she founded the dance magnet program and JV and Varsity Cudettes dance teams in 1999. School spirit is at the core of Ms. Santalo's work and led her to become the school's activities director as she continues leading the dance teams. From teamwork to overcoming hurdles, Ms. Santalo wants her dancers to walk away knowing that what they learned inside of the dance room will serve as tools as they enter the real world. The Cudettes have been winning national championships with a total of forty-six national championship titles since the beginning. Even though the dancers juggle AP and IB coursework and extracurriculars, they have worked together to win a national championship once again last month. The Varsity team won first place in jazz and hip hop and JV won first place in hip hop; and

**WHEREAS**, The Coral Reef Senior High School Varsity Cudettes team is composed of Mahlia Bailey, Damaris DeArmas, Angelina Etienne, Kelli Ferguson, Ryan Fernandez, Briana Gonzalez, Maite Gonzalez, Meleny Herrera, Antonella Liviero, Krystal Machado, Alyssa Mederos, Gabriela Pita, Alyssa Quintanilla, Alyssa Rosendo, Alyssa Toscano, Emma Wolff, Maria Yanez, Ella Zaharas, and Nicole Zumbimendi; and

**WHEREAS**, The Coral Reef Senior High School Junior Varsity Cudettes team is composed of Isabella Capote, Jasmine Rodriguez, Madison Piedra, Camila Cheveres, Jayla Valdes, Nicole Dias, Brooke Olen, Giada de la Teja, Camila Lopez, Emily Ron, Gianna Bello, Jocelyn Samaroo, Samantha Sanchez, Sophia Galindo, D'Myah Beaumont, Samantha Rodriguez, Mia Gomez, Audrinna Migoyo, and Nicole Piles; and

**WHEREAS**, These students and teachers exemplify excellence in and outside of the classroom. They remind us of the value of extracurricular opportunities and an education in the arts. By recognizing their current achievements, we also recognize the legacy of grit and success they have created in District 9.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT:**

The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, approve Resolution No. 23-012 of The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, recognizing District 9 Dance National Champions.

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

**Presented this fifteenth day of March A.D. 2023**

THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA

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SCHOOL BOARD CHAIR

ATTEST:

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Secretary