

Ms. Maria Teresa Rojas, Chair

SUBJECT: REQUEST APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION NO. 23-013 OF THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA, RECOGNIZING THE MARITIME AND SCIENCE TECHNOLOGY ACADEMY (MAST) FOR BEING THE FIRST FLORIDA HIGH SCHOOL TO RECEIVE THE GOLD APPLE ENVIRONMENTAL AWARD FROM THE FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION (FDEP)

COMMITTEE: PERSONNEL, STUDENT, SCHOOL & COMMUNITY SUPPORT

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

Founded in 1991, MAST Academy transformed the local Planet Ocean museum, which closed that same year, into a distinctive and exceptional magnet program in Miami-Dade County Public Schools (M-DCPS). The school's mission is to provide a marine setting and nurturing environment for students leading to academic success, career preparation, and appreciation of the sea and environmental awareness.

In 2015, MAST added a sixth through eighth program and a Cambridge Advanced Program of Studies track, tripled the student body size, and doubled the school's square footage with a large construction project. Aside from the increased capacity, efficiency improvements resulted in reduction in electricity consumption by almost two-thirds. In July 2019, MAST requested and obtained an energy-efficiency audit from Florida Power and Light. That report served as the baseline for MAST's energy efficiency goals.

The Parent, Teacher, and School Association (PTSA) established the MAST PTSA sustainability committee to introduce green infrastructure and strengthen hands-on sustainability activities such as organic gardens, schoolwide recycling, Bayshore beach cleanups, and coastal restoration projects. In 2018, the PTSA partnered with the Phillip and Patricia Frost Museum of Science to create a Green Champions program that acknowledges MAST students at the end-of-the-year ceremony for committed community service hours toward sustainability efforts.

The Green Champions have won an environmental award every year since 2017, including being the recipient of the United States (U.S.) Department of Education Green Ribbon Schools Award. This past January 2023, MAST Academy was recognized by the Florida Department of Environmental Protection's (FDEP) Florida Green Schools Program with a "Gold" designation and the "Gold Apple" award. State schools have the opportunity to achieve different "Apple" levels through a four-tier designation system: green, bronze, silver, and the Gold Apple, the highest designation.

**Revised²
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MAST Academy is the first high school in Florida to receive the “Gold Apple” Award, which was made possible by the Green Champions, a group of committed students, teachers, parents, and community partners who have stepped up to do their part to make MAST Academy a zero-waste and zero-net energy school by 2030. The Florida Green School Designation Program is an initiative launched in 2016 that recognizes K-12 schools that make a voluntary commitment to conserve and protect Florida’s natural resources and demonstrate environmental improvements. The Green Champions were acknowledged for making progress in each of the Gold Apple focus areas: communications, waste reduction, air quality, alternative transportation, gardens, and energy efficiency.

ACTION PROPOSED BY CHAIR

MS. MARIA TERESA ROJAS: That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, approve Resolution No. 23-013 of The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, recognizing the Maritime and Science Technology Academy (MAST) for being the first Florida high school to receive the Gold Apple Environmental Award from the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP).

**RESOLUTION NO. 23-013 OF THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA,
RECOGNIZING THE MARITIME AND SCIENCE TECHNOLOGY ACADEMY (MAST) FOR BEING
THE FIRST FLORIDA HIGH SCHOOL TO RECEIVE THE GOLD APPLE ENVIRONMENTAL
AWARD FROM THE FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION (FDEP).**

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WHEREAS, this past January 2023, MAST Academy was recognized by the Florida Department of Environmental Protection’s (FDEP) Florida Green Schools Program with a “Gold” designation and the “Gold Apple” award;

WHEREAS, founded in 1991, MAST Academy’s mission is to provide a marine setting and nurturing environment for students leading to academic success, career preparation, and appreciation of the sea and environmental awareness;

WHEREAS, the Parent, Teacher, and School Association (PTSA) created the MAST PTSA sustainability committee to introduce green infrastructure and reinvigorate hands-on sustainability activities such as organic gardens, schoolwide recycling, Bayshore beach cleanups, and coastal restoration projects;

WHEREAS, in 2018, the PTSA partnered with the Phillip and Patricia Frost Museum of Science to create a Green Champions program that recognizes MAST students at the end-of-the-year ceremony for dedicated community service hours toward sustainability efforts;

WHEREAS, the Green Champions have won an environmental award every year since 2017, including being the recipient of the United States (U.S.) Department of Education Green Ribbon Schools Award;

WHEREAS, MAST Academy is the first high school in Florida to receive the “Gold Apple” award, which was made possible by the Green Champions, a group of committed students, teachers, parents, and community partners who have stepped up to do their part to make MAST Academy a zero-waste and zero-net energy school by 2030; and

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WHEREAS, the Green Champions were acknowledged for making progress in each of the Gold Apple focus areas: communications, waste reduction, air quality, alternative transportation, gardens, and energy efficiency.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, approve Resolution NO. 23-013 of the School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, recognizing the Maritime and Science Technology (MAST) Academy for being the first Florida high school to receive the Gold Apple Environmental Award from the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP).

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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

SCHOOL BOARD CHAIR

ATTEST:

Secretary