

Ms. Lucia Baez-Geller, School Board Member

SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION NO. 23-025 OF THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA, RECOGNIZING MS. ARLENE S. MARTINEZ, COUNSELOR AT SAS WOLFSON, AS WINNER OF THE 2023 MIAMI HERALD HONOR ROLL POLL

COMMITTEE: ACADEMICS, INNOVATION, EVALUATION & TECHNOLOGY

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

The Miami Herald organized the Honor Roll poll for Miami-Dade and Broward County, whereby current and former students, parents, and school staffers nominate someone who has impacted the lives and educational experiences of students. The award strives to showcase dedicated educators and district employees who are making a difference in their school, in their community, and in the lives of students and families. This year's winner is Arlene S. Martinez, a guidance counselor at the School for Advanced Studies Wolfson Campus since 2016. Ms. Martinez received nearly 800,000 votes in the Honor Roll voting.

Ms. Arlene S. Martinez, CPA, is a Cuban-American and native Floridian. Initially an accountant, she decided to pursue a different career path, which she felt would have a more profound impact on peoples' lives. She received her master's degree in school counseling and special education from Carlos Albizu University. After graduating, she earned a Certification from the Florida Department of Education for School Guidance, Exceptional Student Education, and Career Specialist. In 1997, she began her career at M-DCPS as the Counselor and Special Education Chairperson at Eugenia B. Thomas K-8 Center. While there, she assisted at-risk students, as well as developed and implemented the School-to-Career Curriculum. In 2007, she began working as the Office of Community Engagement Director. During her tenure there, she increased school and community partnerships and internships. Her career later took her to the School for Advanced Students-Wolfson Campus, where she continues to work as a beloved counselor.

Since being at SAS, Ms. Martinez has been known as a champion of education and a strong advocate for all students. She goes above and beyond to ensure that her students succeed, and that no child falls through the cracks. Her strong record of individualized attention and care has garnered praise from students, parents, and staff, and has made her the backbone of the SAS Wolfson community. Ms. Martinez leverages her community partnerships to expose her students to internships, job shadowing experiences, and mentoring opportunities to ensure students have the necessary skills to succeed in college and beyond.

Ms. Martinez is the sponsor and youth coordinator of the National Honor Society, Student Government Association, Women of Tomorrow, and the Investment Club. In 2004, along with her husband, she also established a nonprofit called Kids in America that serves the unaccompanied minors program. She continues to serve as the Secretary and Treasurer of Kids in America.

**GOOD CAUSE
B-8**

Today we recognize Ms. Martinez' accomplishments as an educator, advocate, and treasured mentor. Her continued commitment as a counselor is invaluable, and the hundreds of thousands of votes she received in the Honor Roll poll is a testament to how many lives she has truly impacted throughout the years.

**ACTION PROPOSED BY
MS. LUCIA BAEZ-GELLER:**

That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, approve Resolution No. 23-025 of The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, recognizing Ms. Arlene S. Martinez, Counselor at SAS Wolfson, as winner of the 2023 Miami Herald Honor Roll poll

APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION NO. 23-025 OF THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA, RECOGNIZING MS. ARLENE S. MARTINEZ, COUNSELOR AT SAS WOLFSON, AS WINNER OF THE 2023 MIAMI HERALD HONOR ROLL POLL

WHEREAS, the Miami Herald organized the Honor Roll poll for Miami-Dade and Broward County, whereby current and former students, parents, and school staffers nominate someone who has impacted the lives and educational experiences of students. The award strives to showcase dedicated educators and district employees who are making a difference in their school, in their community, and in the lives of students and families. This year's winner is Arlene S. Martinez, a guidance counselor at the School for Advanced Studies Wolfson Campus since 2016. Ms. Martinez received nearly 800,000 votes in the Honor Roll voting; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Arlene S. Martinez, CPA, is a Cuban-American and native Floridian. Initially an accountant, she decided to pursue a different career path, which she felt would have a more profound impact on peoples' lives. She received her master's degree in school counseling and special education from Carlos Albizu University. After graduating, she earned a Certification from the Florida Department of Education for School Guidance, Exceptional Student Education, and Career Specialist. In 1997, she began her career at M-DCPS as the Counselor and Special Education Chairperson at Eugenia B. Thomas K-8 Center. While there, she assisted at-risk students, as well as developed and implemented the School-to-Career Curriculum. In 2007, she began working as the Office of Community Engagement Director. During her tenure there, she increased school and community partnerships and internships. Her career later took her to the School for Advanced Students, Wolfson Campus, where she continues to work as a beloved counselor; and

WHEREAS, since being at SAS, Ms. Martinez has been known as a champion of education and a strong advocate for all students. She goes above and beyond to ensure that her students succeed, and that no child falls through the cracks. Her strong record of individualized attention and care has garnered praise from students, parents, and staff, and has made her the backbone of the SAS Wolfson community. Ms. Martinez leverages her community partnerships to expose her students to internships, job shadowing experiences, and mentoring opportunities to ensure students have the necessary skills to succeed in college and beyond; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Martinez is the sponsor and youth coordinator of the National Honor Society, Student Government Association, Women of Tomorrow, and the Investment Club. In 2004, along with her husband, she also established a nonprofit called Kids in America that serves the unaccompanied minors program. She continues to serve as the Secretary and Treasurer of Kids in America; and

WHEREAS, today we recognize Ms. Martinez' accomplishments as an educator, advocate, and treasured mentor. Her continued commitment as a counselor is invaluable, and the hundreds of thousands of votes she received in the Honor Roll poll is a testament to how many lives she has truly impacted throughout the years.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, approve Resolution No. 23-025 of The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, recognizing Ms. Arlene S. Martinez, Counselor at SAS Wolfson, as winner of the 2023 Miami Herald Honor Roll poll.

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

Presented this nineteenth day of April, A.D. 2023

THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA

SCHOOL BOARD CHAIR

ATTEST:

Secretary