

Dr. Dorothy Bendross-Mindingall, Board Member

Co-Sponsors:      Ms. Maria Teresa Rojas, Chair  
                             Mr. Daniel Espino, Vice Chair  
                             Ms. Mary Blanco  
                             Dr. Steve Gallon III  
                             Ms. Luisa Santos

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**SUBJECT:            THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA  
                             RECOGNIZE AND OBSERVE APRIL 29 AS A DAY TO  
                             COMMEMORATE THE ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF CONGRESSWOMAN  
                             CARRIE P. MEEK IN MIAMI-DADE COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

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

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

Carrie P. Meek was elected to the United States Congress in 1992 and was the first African American lawmaker to represent the State of Florida since the Reconstruction Era. Born Carrie Pittman on April 29<sup>th</sup>, 1926, in Tallahassee Florida, Congresswoman Meek is the daughter of sharecroppers and granddaughter of slaves.

Congresswoman Meek graduated from Florida A&M University in 1946 with a Bachelor of Science degree in Biology and Education. She later attended Michigan State University to complete her graduate studies because blacks were banned from attending graduate school in Florida. In 1948, Congresswoman Meek completed her Master of Science degree in Public Health and Physical Education. The Congresswoman began her teaching career at the historic Bethune Cookman College in Daytona Beach, where she taught Biology and Physical Education. Relocating to Miami-Dade County in 1961, Congresswoman Meek spent three decades as a teacher and administrator at Miami-Dade Community College.

In 1978, Congresswoman Meek won election to the Florida House of Representatives where she served from 1978 to 1993. During her tenure, the Congresswoman served as the chairwoman of the Education Appropriations Subcommittee from 1983 to 1993. As chairwoman, she played an integral in passing legislation that helped improve schools. After being elected to United States Congress at 66 years old, Congresswoman Meek launched an ambitious agenda that focused on the needs of her district that included issues arising from unemployment, immigration, poverty, and natural disasters.

Throughout her six terms as a member of Congress, Congresswoman Meek became a champion for the least and the lost. The Congresswoman served as a voice for those who were underrepresented and underserved by championing legislation that created jobs and provided opportunities for African Americans to have their own businesses. Additionally, Congresswoman Meek helped modify social security to cover household workers, fought for equal residency rights

for Haitian Immigrants, expanded Head Start to include Early Head Start, as well as expanded the Economic Opportunity Act programs.

Today, Congresswoman Carrie P. Meek is known as the “Mother of Miami” and is respected for her commitment, dedication, and service to the people of her community.

The School Board commends the Honorable Congresswoman Carrie P. Meek for her leadership and service to the children and families of Miami-Dade County and the State of Florida.

This agenda item requests Board approval to direct the Superintendent: (1) Recognize the extraordinary accomplishments of Carrie P. Meek; (2) to review the feasibility of establishing an annual program to commemorate the accomplishments of Congresswoman Carrie P. Meek; (3) to report back to the Board at the June 14, 2023, Personnel, Student, School & Community Support Committee meeting.

This item has been reviewed and approved by the General Counsel’s Office as to form and legal sufficiency.

**ACTION PROPOSED BY  
DR. DOROTHY BENDROSS-MINDINGALL:**

That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, direct the Superintendent to:

1. Recognize the extraordinary accomplishments of Carrie P. Meek; and
2. Review the feasibility of establishing an annual program to commemorate the accomplishments of Carrie P. Meek; and
3. Report back the Board at the June 2023, Personnel, Student, School & Community Support Committee meeting.