

Ms. Maria Teresa Rojas, Chair

SUBJECT: REQUEST APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION NO. 23-056 OF THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA, RECOGNIZING THE MARIA VERDEJA SCHOOL OF THE ARTS (MVSA)

COMMITTEE: PERSONNEL, STUDENT, SCHOOL, & COMMUNITY SUPPORT

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

The Maria Verdeja School of the Arts (MVSA) has developed, nurtured, and has been committed to excellence in dance training for over 35 years. Founded in 1987 in its original location in Coral Gables, it soon expanded to include studios in Key Biscayne and Kendall. In 2009, MVSA moved to its new location in Coral Gables with a facility which includes dance studios; costume rooms, with over 4,500 costumes; dressing rooms; and a magnificent theater, The Prado Theater, fully equipped with state of the art lighting and sound system.

Throughout the years, over 10,000 students have passed through its doors. MVSA has dedicated itself to teaching children and young women of all ages in classical ballet as well as jazz, hi-hop, tap dance, flamenco, lyrical dance, pointe, and variations. Some of its many successful students at MVSA have gone onto professional careers in dance companies, began their own dance studios, are heading dance programs in magnet schools, and are even found performing on Broadway.

A core value of Ms. Verdeja is to instill in her students, teachers, and staff, the importance of supporting the community and those in need. In the local community, MVSA has participated in numerous charitable institutions and non-profit agencies which MVSA has supported, including the University of Miami Aids Research Project, South Miami Hospital, Mercy Hospital, Nicklaus Children's Hospital, Homestead Orphanage (St. Anne Mission), among many others.

Over the years, Ms. Verdeja has received numerous awards including the Latin Women of the Year Award, the Key to the City of Coral Gables, the Golden Emblem of the City of Coral Gables, and the National Leadership Award from the Business Advisory Council. Ms. Verdeja and the MVSA are examples of stewardship and leadership to local artists and business owners.

This year, the MVSA has been invited to participate and perform in the 97th Annual Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade on November 23, 2023, in New York City, where it is expected to be watched by over 28 million people throughout the United States.

The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida is honored to recognized the Maria Verdeja School of the Arts (MVSA) for its dance training contribution to children and young women of all ages.

ACTION PROPOSED BY CHAIR

MS. MARIA TERESA ROJAS: That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, approve Resolution No. 23-056 of The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, recognizing the Maria Verdeja School of the Arts (MVSA).

**RESOLUTION NO. 23-056 OF THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA,
RECOGNIZING THE MARIA VERDEJA SCHOOL OF THE ARTS (MVSA)**

WHEREAS, the Maria Verdeja School of the Arts (MVSA) has developed, nurtured, and has been committed to excellence in dance training for over 35 years;

WHEREAS, founded in 1987 in its original location in Coral Gables, MVSA soon expanded to include studios in Key Biscayne and Kendall. In 2009, MVSA moved to its new location in Coral Gables with a facility which includes dance studios; costume rooms, with over 4,500 costumes; dressing rooms; and a magnificent theater, The Prado Theater;

WHEREAS, over 10,000 students have passed through its doors and MVSA has dedicated itself to teaching children and young women of all ages in classical ballet as well as jazz, hi-hop, tap dance, flamenco, lyrical dance, pointe, and variations;

WHEREAS, some of its many successful students at MVSA have gone onto professional careers in dance companies, began their own dance studios, are heading dance programs in magnet schools, and are even found performing on Broadway;

WHEREAS, a core value of Ms. Verdeja is to instill in her students, teachers, and staff, the importance of supporting the community and those in need;

WHEREAS, over the years, Ms. Verdeja has received numerous awards including the Latin Women of the Year Award, the Key to the City of Coral Gables, The Golden Emblem of the City of Coral Gables, and the National Leadership Award from the Business Advisory Council; and

WHEREAS, MVSA has been invited to participate and perform in the 97th Annual Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade on November 23, 2023, in New York City.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, approve Resolution NO. 23-056 of the School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, recognizing the Maria Verdeja School of the Arts (MVSA)

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

Presented this fifteenth day of November, A. D. 2023

THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA

SCHOOL BOARD CHAIR

ATTEST:

Secretary