

Dr. Steve Gallon III, Board Member

Co-Sponsors: Ms. Maria Teresa Rojas, Chair
Ms. Lucia Baez-Geller
Dr. Dorothy Bendross-Mindingall
Ms. Mary Blanco
Ms. Monica Colucci
Ms. Luisa Santos

REVISED
AT DAIS
BY
BOARD
ACTION

SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION NO. 23-015 OF THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA, RECOGNIZING ZOE TERRY OF ZOE'S DOLLS FOR HER COMMITMENT TO HER COMMUNITY, THE WORLD, AND THE STUDENTS OF THE MIAMI-DADE COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

COMMITTEE: ACADEMICS, INNOVATION, EVALUATION & TECHNOLOGY

LINK TO STRATEGIC PLAN: RELEVANT, RIGOROUS, & INNOVATIVE ACADEMICS

Zoe Terry, 16 years old, is the CEO of Zoe's Dolls, a not-for-profit organization founded in Miami, Florida. She started Zoe's Dolls when she was just 5 years old. To truly understand the power of Zoe's Dolls, you must first know the story of Zoe Terry. When she was 2, Zoe suffered a stroke. While it left her with fine and gross motor skill difficulties, along with some speech impairment, she was unstoppable. After hard work and intensive physical, occupational and speech therapy, Zoe overcame most of her physical limitations.

When she was in Kindergarten, she was bullied because of her skin color and hair texture. She was the only one in her class who looked like she did. She was also bullied because she was a bit slower riding the tricycle than other kids because of her physical limitations. Once again Zoe was unmoved. She decided to do something about how this made her feel. She decided to act.

Zoe's mother, who had always instilled in her the importance of paying it forward and giving back, had asked her to give away one of her gifts to a child less fortunate. Zoe complied. But after what she had gone through in Kindergarten, Zoe told her mother that she did not want to do that anymore. She knew she had the will and the power to do more. Zoe stated that she wanted to "start a company that gives free brown dolls to little brown girls in need at Christmas time." Zoe's reasoning for wanting to do this was two-fold. She wanted to give toys to little girls less fortunate than she was and she wanted to combat bullying letting little brown girls know that they were special, just the way they are.

Since its inception, Zoe has given out over 50,000 dolls. She has impacted the lives of over 25,000 girls in South Florida, Texas, Mississippi, Georgia, New York, Detroit, Haiti, Jamaica, The Netherlands,

Cuba, Trinidad, and Africa. Zoe has chapters of Zoe's Dolls in Mississippi, Texas, and Georgia. Zoe just completed two international trips to India and London where she gave out dolls and copies of her book *Simply Zoe*.

Zoe has not stopped at dolls. Her organization has developed and runs programs aimed at empowering little girls and young ladies; Loving the Skin I'm In Creative Expressions Contest, Love Letters to Black Girls, Zoe's Dolls Girl Ambassadors, Girlpreneur Program, The Girl Fit Experience, and The Living Doll Experience (LDE).

Zoe has been recognized and honored for her philanthropic efforts in many arenas. Zoe is the **author of the book *Simply Zoe*** and the **podcast**, by the same name, ***P.O.V. with Zoe & Friends***.

**ACTION PROPOSED BY
DR. STEVE GALLON III:**

That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, approve Resolution No. 23-015 of The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, recognizing Zoe Terry of Zoe's Dolls for her Commitment To Her Community, The World, And The Students of The Miami-Dade County Public Schools

REQUEST FOR APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION NO. 23-015 OF THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA, RECOGNIZING ZOE TERRY OF ZOE'S DOLLS FOR HER COMMITMENT TO HER COMMUNITY, THE WORLD, AND THE STUDENTS OF THE MIAMI-DADE COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

WHEREAS, Zoe Terry, 16 years old, is the CEO of Zoe's Dolls, a not-for-profit organization founded in Miami, Florida. She started Zoe's Dolls when she was just 5 years old. To truly understand the power of Zoe's Dolls, you must first know the story of Zoe Terry. When she was 2, Zoe suffered a stroke. While it left her with fine and gross motor skill difficulties, along with some speech impairment, she was unstoppable. After hard work and intensive physical, occupational and speech therapy, Zoe overcame most of her physical limitations; and

WHEREAS, when she was in kindergarten, she was bullied because of her skin color and hair texture. She was the only one in her class who looked like she did. She was also bullied because she was a bit slower riding the tricycle than other kids because of her physical limitations. Once again Zoe was unmoved. She decided to do something about how this made her feel. She decided to act; and

WHEREAS, Zoe's mother, who had always instilled in her the importance of paying it forward and giving back, had asked her to give away one of her gifts to a child less fortunate. Zoe complied. But after what she had gone through in Kindergarten, Zoe told her mother that she did not want to do that anymore. She knew she had the will and the power to do more. Zoe stated that she wanted to "start a company that gives free brown dolls to little brown girls in need at Christmas time." Zoe's reasoning for wanting to do this was two-fold. She wanted to give toys to little girls less fortunate than she was and she wanted to combat bullying letting little brown girls know that they were special, just the way they are; and

WHEREAS, since its inception, Zoe has given out over 50,000 dolls. She has impacted the lives of over 25,000 girls in South Florida, Texas, Mississippi, Georgia, New York, Detroit, Haiti, Jamaica, The Netherlands, Cuba, Trinidad and Africa. Zoe has chapters of Zoe's Dolls in Mississippi, Texas and Georgia. Zoe just completed two international trips to India and London where she gave out dolls and copies of her book Simply Zoe; and

WHEREAS, Zoe has not stopped at dolls. Her organization has developed and runs programs aimed at empowering little girls and young ladies; Loving the Skin I'm In Creative Expressions Contest, Love Letters to Black Girls, Zoe's Dolls Girl Ambassadors, Girlpreneur Program, The Girl Fit Experience, and The Living Doll Experience (LDE); and

WHEREAS, Zoe has been recognized and honored for her philanthropic efforts in many arenas. Zoe is the *author of the book Simply Zoe* and the *podcast*, by the same name, *P.O.V. with Zoe & Friends*.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, approve Resolution No. 23-015 of The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, recognizing Zoe Terry of Zoe's Dolls for her Commitment To Her Community, The World, And The Students of The Miami-Dade County Public Schools.

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