

Ms. Lucia Baez-Geller, School Board Member

SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION NO. 23-033 OF THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA, RECOGNIZING TEENS ADVOCATING TOGETHER

COMMITTEE: PERSONNEL, STUDENT, SCHOOL, & COMMUNITY SUPPORT

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

Teens Advocating Together is a joint program between the Jewish Community Relations Council (JCRC) at the Greater Miami Jewish Federation (GMJF) and the NAACP Youth Council at the Miami-Dade County branch of the NAACP. The purpose of the program is to create dialogue, spark conversations and build bridges between communities. More specifically, the program focuses on bringing together high school students who have a passion for service, civics, and public policy. The program first launched as a pilot program during the 2019-2020 academic year but has now become a permanent feature of student engagement efforts among both Black and Jewish communities in Miami-Dade County.

The general structure includes speaker-led workshops that prepare students for interactive conversations and debates over public policy; these also allow students to build holistic and authentic friendships that find inspiration from learning about each community's everyday challenges and opportunities, especially combating antisemitism and racism. The entire program builds up towards an Advocacy Day trip in Tallahassee, where the students lobby elected officials on issues that they chose to focus on in their workshops.

In 2022-2023, Teens Advocating Together had the opportunity to make a lasting impact through various events and initiatives. Students learned about conflict resolution and storytelling through a workshop conversation. They also learned about Black-Jewish Relations and the Civil Rights Movement through an interactive discussion with elected officials. This year's cohort also had the opportunity to attend an event called "Shine A Light on Antisemitism and Racism," allowing them to have an experiential interaction with the complex realities of racism in America. On Advocacy Day in Tallahassee, students met with prominent members of the State Legislature, from both parties, to talk about criminal justice reform, public nuisance laws, and childcare services.

Teens Advocating Together gives high school students across the county the opportunity to develop leadership skills, form a better understanding of policies and governance, and contribute to the local community and beyond. Today, we recognize the teens for their hard work throughout the year, their dedication to improving our community, and their leadership in setting the example for those around them.

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

That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, approve Resolution No. 23-033 of The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, recognizing Teens Advocating Together.

**REPLACEMENT
B-3**

**APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION NO. 23-033
OF THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA,
RECOGNIZING TEENS ADVOCATING TOGETHER**

WHEREAS, Teens Advocating Together is a joint program between the Jewish Community Relations Council (JCRC) at the Greater Miami Jewish Federation (GMJF) and the NAACP Youth Council at the Miami-Dade County branch of the NAACP. The purpose of the program is to create dialogue, spark conversations and build bridges between communities. More specifically, the program focuses on bringing together high school students who have a passion for service, civics, and public policy. The program first launched as a pilot program during the 2019-2020 academic year but has now become a permanent feature of student engagement efforts among both Black and Jewish communities in Miami-Dade County; and

WHEREAS, the general structure includes speaker-led workshops that prepare students for interactive conversations and debates over public policy; these also allow students to build holistic and authentic friendships that find inspiration from learning about each community's everyday challenges and opportunities, especially combating antisemitism and racism. The entire program builds up towards an Advocacy Day trip in Tallahassee, where the students lobby elected officials on issues that they chose to focus on in their workshops; and

WHEREAS, in 2022-2023, Teens Advocating Together had the opportunity to make a lasting impact through various events and initiatives. Students learned about conflict resolution and storytelling through a workshop conversation. They also learned about Black-Jewish Relations and the Civil Rights Movement through an interactive discussion with elected officials. This year's cohort also had the opportunity to attend an event called "Shine A Light on Antisemitism and Racism," allowing them to have an experiential interaction with the complex realities of racism in America. On Advocacy Day in Tallahassee, students met with prominent members of the State Legislature, from both parties, to talk about criminal justice reform, public nuisance laws, and childcare services; and

WHEREAS, Teens Advocating Together gives high school students across the county the opportunity to develop leadership skills, form a better understanding of policies and governance, and contribute to the local community and beyond. Today, we recognize the teens for their hard work throughout the year, their dedication to improving our community, and their leadership in setting the example for those around them; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, approve Resolution No. 23-033 of The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, recognizing Teens Advocating Together.

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

Presented this twenty-first day of June, A.D. 2023

THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA

SCHOOL BOARD CHAIR

ATTEST:

Secretary