

Ms. Maria Teresa Rojas, Chair

Co-Sponsors: Ms. Monica Colucci, Vice Chair
Ms. Lucia Baez-Geller
Ms. Mary Blanco
Mr. Daniel Espino
Dr. Steve Gallon, III
Ms. Luisa Santos

REVISED
AT DAIS
BY
BOARD
ACTION

SUBJECT: REQUEST APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION NO. 24-008 OF THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA, RECOGNIZING MR. UDONIS HASLEM, MIAMI HEAT BASKETBALL LEGEND

COMMITTEE: PERSONNEL, STUDENT, SCHOOL, & COMMUNITY SUPPORT

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

Udonis Haslem, known simply as "UD," is a former professional basketball player, father & husband, businessman, and philanthropist. In 2023, the three-time NBA Champion and Co-Team Captain of the Miami HEAT held the position of the oldest active player in the league. As the only undrafted player to hold this long of a career, UD's entire 20-year NBA run to date has been with the HEAT, a distinction that currently makes it the longest streak by any active player with only one team in the league. He Joins NBA Legends Kobe Bryant and Dirk Nowitzki as the only other players to spend 20 years with one franchise. UD's leadership, voice, work ethic, and passion - on and off the court - make him the embodiment of Miami HEAT culture and a beacon in Miami-Dade County.

Born and raised in Miami, Florida, UD takes great pride in the city where he lives, and great honor in the opportunity he has earned to represent that city. After graduating from Miami Senior High School, UD went to the University of Florida, where he played basketball for Coach Billy Donovan as the starting center for four NCAA tournament teams. Post-graduation, UD spent the 2002-2003 season with Chalons-sur-Saône in France, before signing with the Miami HEAT as a free agent in August of 2003.

Throughout his life, UD has embodied the importance of lifting others up and is known by his teammates as the true backbone of the Miami HEAT and the real Mr. 305. Through good and bad times, UD has proven to always be there for his teammates, and in turn, has worked tirelessly to play that same role with the Miami community at large. When discussing challenges both on and off the court, UD notes, "... when I'm challenged, and at the bottom, the last thing you're going to hear me say is this is too hard. I'm never going to say it's too hard. I'm never going to complain. I'm always going to find a way to overcome the odds."

In 2020, UD's humanitarian efforts took center stage when the world was hit with the COVID-19 pandemic. In addition to writing a passionate, heartfelt essay titled The Real Miami, published on The Players' Tribune, UD recognizes his responsibility as a prominent leader on and off the court throughout the community. In March 2020, UD partnered with Ken Russell, a Miami city commissioner, to launch his 'Power Forward Through Hunger' initiative in partnership with the Udonis Haslem Children's Foundation. This initiative focused on feeding underprivileged and at-risk communities throughout Miami by personally delivering pre-packaged meals. UD also personally delivered meals to frontline workers (Hospitals, Police & Fire Stations). Speaking for those who didn't have a voice, UD also made several appearances on both local and national news outlets and webinars, offering motivational words to the community, while working tirelessly to do his part during the pandemic.

The Udonis Haslem Children's Foundation (UD Kids) became The Udonis Haslem Foundation in 2022 to widen the scope of impact. UD Kids continue to be one of the pillars of the Foundation as it now moves into the education space by leveling up our children. The UD Foundation also focuses on mental health initiatives, especially as they relate to criminal justice reform and a push for further community accessibility programs such as low-income housing, financial literacy, and minority owned small businesses. On August 15, 2022, The Udonis Haslem Foundation awarded two South Florida based minority owned small businesses \$50,000 each to dramatically improve their businesses and the communities they serve.

Off the court, UD has proven to be a successful businessman. In 2013, UD decided to venture outside of the basketball world and opened his first Subway franchise. As his business interests grew, UD partnered with JFC Management Holdings to become a Starbucks and Einstein Bagels licensee in 2016. UD also partnered with CareerSource Florida and the Employ Miami-Dade Project to hire and train local job seekers and young adults from low-income families to work at his Starbucks and Einstein Bros. Bagels stores.

In 2016, UD was inducted into the Greater Miami Chamber of Commerce Sports Hall of Champions for his athletic accomplishments as the longest-tenured member in the Miami HEAT franchise. In 2019, UD accepted the prestigious Don Shula Sports Legend Award - an honor bestowed on select individuals who have accomplished extraordinary achievements both on the field of play of their respective sports, as well as off the court as a significant contributor to the community. In 2021, UD was the first ever recipient of the prestigious Sports Illustrated Hometown Hero Award. Just recently, the Miami Heat organization named UD as vice president of basketball development.

On January 19, 2024, the Miami Heat retired Udonis Haslem's No. 40 jersey, an honor to a great legacy.

UD is a proud husband to his wife Faith, and father to three sons, Kedonis, Elijah, and Josiah.

Miami-Dade County Public Schools is honored to recognize Mr. Udonis Haslem, Miami Heat Basketball Legend for his outstanding leadership, passion, work ethics, contributions, dedication, and commitment to professional basketball and the Miami-Dade County community.

ACTION PROPOSED BY CHAIR

MS. MARIA TERESA ROJAS: That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, approve Resolution No. 24-008 of The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, recognizing Mr. Udonis Haslem, Miami Heat Basketball Legend.

**RESOLUTION NO. 24-008 OF THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY,
FLORIDA, RECOGNIZING MR. UDONIS HASLEM, MIAMI HEAT
BASKETBALL LEGEND**

WHEREAS, Mr. Udonis Haslem, born and raised in Miami, Florida, known as "UD," is a former professional basketball player, businessman, and philanthropist. In 2023, the three-time NBA Champion and Co-Team Captain of the Miami HEAT held the position of the oldest active player in the league;

WHEREAS, UD's entire 20-year NBA run was with the HEAT, a distinction that currently makes it the longest streak by any active player with only one team in the league and just recently, the Miami Heat organization named UD as vice president of basketball development;

WHEREAS, after graduating from Miami Senior High School, UD went to the University of Florida, where he played basketball as the starting center for four NCAA tournament teams;

WHEREAS, UD has embodied the importance of lifting others up and is known by his teammates as the true backbone of the Miami HEAT. UD has proven to always be there for his teammates, and in turn, has worked tirelessly to play that same role with the Miami community at large;

WHEREAS, the Udonis Haslem Children's Foundation (UD Kids) became The Udonis Haslem Foundation in 2022 to widen the scope of impact. UD Kids continue to be one of the pillars of the Foundation as it now moves into the education space by leveling up our children. The UD Foundation also focuses on mental health initiatives, especially as they relate to criminal justice reform and a push for further community accessibility programs such as low-income housing, financial literacy, and minority owned small businesses;

WHEREAS, In 2016, UD was inducted into the Greater Miami Chamber of Commerce Sports Hall of Champions for his athletic accomplishments as the longest-tenured member in the Miami HEAT franchise. In 2019, UD accepted the prestigious Don Shula Sports Legend Award and in 2021, UD was the first ever recipient of the prestigious Sports Illustrated Hometown Hero Award;

WHEREAS, on January 19, 2024, the Miami Heat retired Udonis Haslem's No. 40 jersey, an honor to a great legacy; and

WHEREAS, UD is a proud husband to his wife Faith, and father to three sons, Kedonis, Elijah, and Josiah.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, approve Resolution No. 24-008 of The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, recognizing Mr. Udonis Haslem, Miami Heat Basketball Legend.

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

Presented this thirteenth day of February A. D. 2024

THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA

SCHOOL BOARD CHAIR

ATTEST:

_____ Secretary