

Ms. Lucia Baez-Geller, School Board Member

Co-Sponsors: Ms. Maria Teresa Rojas, Chair
Ms. Monica Colucci, Vice Chair
Ms. Mary Blanco
Mr. Daniel Espino
Ms. Luisa Santos

REVISED
AT DAIS
BY
BOARD
ACTION

SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION NO. 24-010 OF THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA, RECOGNIZING MELISSA ABRIL-DOTEL, 2025 FRANCISCO R. WALKER MIAMI-DADE COUNTY TEACHER OF THE YEAR

COMMITTEE: PERSONNEL, STUDENT, SCHOOL, & COMMUNITY SUPPORT

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

On January 23, 2024, Ms. Melissa Abril-Dotel was named the 2025 Francisco R. Walker Miami-Dade County Teacher of the Year. Ms. Abril-Dotel, a second-grade teacher at North Beach Elementary, is a product of Miami-Dade County Public Schools (M-DCPS), along with her seven siblings. Her father, stepmother, and two siblings are also educators in the M-DCPS system.

Ms. Abril-Dotel began her teaching career in 2008 at Coral Way K-8 Center and now teaches at North Beach Elementary, where she has been since 2015. She holds an Elementary Education certification and a Clinical Supervising Teacher certification, as well as ESOL and Gifted endorsements. She also holds a master's degree in TESOL and Urban Education, and a bachelor's degree in Elementary Education. Ms. Abril-Dotel is a member of the American Federation of Teachers, United Teachers of Dade, Florida Education Association and National Education Association.

As an educator, Ms. Abril-Dotel believes in making education meaningful, allowing students to understand concepts instead of memorizing them, and inspiring long-lasting, positive transformation through educational experiences. She continuously finds new and innovative ways to engage students through reading challenges, hands-on learning initiatives, and online programs. In addition to these initiatives, she also puts incentives in place to motivate students, encouraging and fostering a passion for learning.

Beyond the classroom, Ms. Abril-Dotel is extremely active in service and leadership. She has spearheaded various programs and initiatives, such as coordinating student-driven gardening, leading the Young Readers program, mentoring new teachers, and organizing school events and performances, among many more. She has also received over \$20,000 in grants and awards, allowing her the opportunity to fund classroom projects and expand school programs.

The Miami-Dade County School Board recognizes Ms. Melissa Abril-Dotel as the 2025 Francisco R. Walker Miami-Dade County Teacher of the Year and commends her for going above and beyond the call of duty. Her commitment and dedication will leave a long-lasting impact on her students and inspire a love of learning throughout their lives.

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

That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, approve Resolution No. 24-010 of The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, recognizing Melissa Abril-Dotel, 2025 Francisco R. Walker Miami-Dade County Teacher of the Year.

**APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION NO. 24-010
OF THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA, RECOGNIZING MELISSA ABRIL-
DOTEL, 2025 FRANCISCO R. WALKER MIAMI-DADE COUNTY TEACHER OF THE YEAR**

WHEREAS, on January 23, 2024, Ms. Melissa Abril-Dotel was named the 2025 Francisco R. Walker Miami-Dade County Teacher of the Year. Ms. Abril-Dotel, a second-grade teacher at North Beach Elementary, is a product of Miami-Dade County Public Schools (M-DCPS), along with her seven siblings. Her father, stepmother, and two siblings are also educators in the M-DCPS system; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Abril-Dotel began her teaching career in 2008 at Coral Way K-8 Center and now teaches at North Beach Elementary, where she has been since 2015. She holds an Elementary Education certification and a Clinical Supervising Teacher certification, as well as ESOL and Gifted endorsements. She also holds a master's degree in TESOL and Urban Education, and a bachelor's degree in Elementary Education. Ms. Abril-Dotel is a member of the American Federation of Teachers, United Teachers of Dade, Florida Education Association and National Education Association; and

WHEREAS, as an educator, Ms. Abril-Dotel believes in making education meaningful, allowing students to understand concepts instead of memorizing them, and inspiring long-lasting, positive transformation through educational experiences. She continuously finds new and innovative ways to engage students through reading challenges, hands-on learning initiatives, and online programs. In addition to these initiatives, she also puts incentives in place to motivate students, encouraging and fostering a passion for learning; and

WHEREAS, beyond the classroom, Ms. Abril-Dotel is extremely active in service and leadership. She has spearheaded various programs and initiatives, such as coordinating student-driven gardening, leading the Young Readers program, mentoring new teachers, and organizing school events and performances, among many more. She has also received over \$20,000 in grants and awards, allowing her the opportunity to fund classroom projects and expand school programs; and

WHEREAS, the Miami-Dade County School Board recognizes Ms. Melissa Abril-Dotel as the 2025 Francisco R. Walker Miami-Dade County Teacher of the Year and commends her for going above and beyond the call of duty. Her commitment and dedication will leave a long-lasting impact on her students and inspire a love of learning throughout their lives;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, approve Resolution No. 24-010 of The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida recognizing Melissa Abril-Dotel, 2025 Francisco R. Walker Miami-Dade County Teacher of the Year.

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