

Ms. Maria Teresa Rojas, Chair

**SUBJECT: SCHOOL BOARD ENDORSEMENT OF TUESDAY, MAY 7, 2024, AS NATIONAL TEACHER DAY, AND MAY 6-10, 2024, AS TEACHER APPRECIATION WEEK IN MIAMI-DADE COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

**COMMITTEE: PERSONNEL, STUDENT, SCHOOL & COMMUNITY SUPPORT**

**LINK TO STRATEGIC PLAN: HIGHLY EFFECTIVE TEACHERS, LEADERS, & STAFF**

In the 1940s, an Arkansas teacher named Mattye Whyte Woodridge developed the idea of a national day to honor teachers and began communicating with education and political leaders to bring this idea to fruition. Ultimately, Woodridge contacted First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt who persuaded Congress to declare a National Teacher Day in 1953.

The National Education Association (NEA), in partnership with its local and state affiliates, lobbied Congress to establish a nationally recognized day to celebrate teachers. Congress responded by declaring March 7, 1980, as *National Teacher Day* for that year only. For the next four years, the NEA continued celebrating *National Teacher Day* in March, until it was eventually changed to the first Tuesday of the first full week of the month of May.

Great teachers make great public schools. On *National Teacher Day*, Tuesday, May 7, 2024, thousands of communities take time to honor their local educators and acknowledge the crucial role teachers play in making sure every student receives an outstanding, quality education.

*National Teacher Day* (Tuesday, May 7, 2024), which falls during *Teacher Appreciation Week* (May 6-10, 2024) is a wonderful opportunity to remind the Miami-Dade County community of the value that teachers bring to the lives of all children. It is also the perfect and unique occasion for school boards, school administrators, community members, and students to salute and thank those who touch the lives of children throughout teaching and the twelve years plus of learning.

No matter where we are in life, a teacher has influenced each and every one of us. Teachers continue to impact our lives every day. When we meet new employees with a wealth of skills and abilities, regardless of whether they start in the public or private sector,

we know a teacher helped shape them. Every new business owner, doctor, engineer, architect, accountant, or nurse can name a teacher who inspired them. Every one of us has at least one teacher in mind who encouraged and motivated us during our education journey.

This item has been reviewed and approved by the General Counsel's office as to form and legal sufficiency.

**ACTION PROPOSED BY CHAIR**

**MS. MARIA TERESA ROJAS:** That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, approve the endorsement of May 7, 2024, as *National Teacher Day* and May 6-10, 2024, as *Teacher Appreciation Week* in Miami-Dade County Public Schools.