

Ms. Luisa Santos, Board Member

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

REVISED
AT DAIS
BY
BOARD
ACTION

SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION NO. 24-050 OF THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA, RECOGNIZING DISTRICT 9 SUPPORT PROGRAMS

COMMITTEE: PERSONNEL, STUDENT, SCHOOL & COMMUNITY SUPPORT

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

Community outreach programs are dedicated advocates for community enrichment, fostering growth and empowerment among Miami-Dade County's students and families. Over the years, these programs have championed initiatives both in and out of the classroom aimed at addressing critical community needs, enhancing educational opportunities, and promoting inclusive environments. It takes a village to give our students the highest quality education and organizations such as The Armour Dance Theatre, YMCA of Greater Miami, FIU After-School All-Stars, Recapturing the Vision, and Be Strong International have been integral in providing essential resources, mentorship, and support to students, families, and community members alike.

Established in 1949, **Armour Dance Theatre** harnesses the transformative potential of exceptional dance training to ensure every student achieves their fullest potential. Dedicated to creating educational and professional pathways for Miami-Dade County's youth through dance study and performance, Armour Dance Theatre serves over 1,000 students annually across six sites, offering more than 600 scholarships. By delivering high-quality dance education and supportive services, they cultivate essential life skills, emotional resilience, and a strong sense of belonging among students. Armour Dance Theatre stands as a beacon of hope and opportunity in Miami-Dade County, empowering youth through the study of dance.

With a legacy spanning over 176 years, the YMCA, also known as Y, embarked on its journey in South Florida through the establishment of the **YMCA of Greater Miami**. Dedicated to instilling its core values of nurturing a healthy spirit, mind, and body to over 4,000 children and youth across sixty program sites annually. From inclusive programs available to students with disabilities to providing crucial resources for underprivileged families, the Y exemplifies the transformative impact of community-driven initiatives. In the last three decades, their initiatives have positively impacted more than 60,000 children in Miami-Dade County, inspiring them to flourish at every stage of life. Through the creation of meaningful collaborations with numerous community members, including local schools, the Y cultivates safe and supportive environments that benefit families.

Founded in 1992, **FIU After-School All-Stars** is part of a national organization dedicated to providing free after-school support for underserved students attending Title 1 schools. In South Florida, the After-School All-Stars chapter has been deeply involved with M-DCPS students for more than 25 years, supporting 80,000 students through after-school and summer camp programs. Strengthening their commitment to enhancing services, they have forged a strong partnership with FIU, extending their influence to high schools throughout M-DCPS. Thanks to Sean Prospect, FIU After-School All-Stars actively strives to identify and nurture students' individual passions by integrating their interests with customized academic support, enrichment activities, personal wellness initiatives, and exploration of college and career pathways. This approach to student engagement helps children succeed in school and in life, making a significant difference in the lives of countless students and educators alike.

For nearly 30 years, **Recapturing the Vision** has transformed lives and strengthened families with a steadfast commitment to empowerment and growth. Through impactful programs focused on communication, problem-solving, and fostering successful relationships, they ensure every child enters school healthy and safe. Initiatives like the Family Mentoring Weekend program have served 100 at-risk families, offering retreats with financial literacy workshops and conflict resolution activities. The founder of the program, Dr. Del Rosario, continues to inspire the community, empowering individuals to dream again, one person at a time.

In the 1980s, Althea McMillan, a former Miami-Dade County Public School teacher, witnessed the challenges faced by youth in economically disadvantaged neighborhoods, including high rates of school dropout due to early pregnancies, a cycle she herself had overcome. Motivated to break these cycles, she founded **Be Strong International**, dedicated to providing holistic education and resources to youth and families. Through focused programs on healthy relationship education, Be Strong International equips individuals with essential skills to thrive academically and personally. By fostering resilience and offering effective relationship tools, the organization transforms communities, guiding families to healthier emotional pathways and creating opportunities for a brighter future.

This resolution acknowledges the invaluable support provided to the students and families of M-DCPS by Armour Dance Theatre, YMCA of Greater Miami, FIU After-School All-Stars, Recapturing the Vision, and Be Strong International. Their support underscores the belief that it takes a village to nurture our community, emphasizing our commitment to supporting and integrating families into educational pathways across Miami-Dade County Public Schools. Together, we strive to enhance educational opportunities and cultivate inclusive environments for all.

**ACTION PROPOSED BY
MS. LUISA SANTOS:**

That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, approve Resolution No. 24-050 of The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, recognizing community outreach programs.

**RESOLUTION NO. 24-050 OF THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE
COUNTY, FLORIDA, RECOGNIZING DISTRICT 9 SUPPORT PROGRAMS**

WHEREAS, community outreach programs are dedicated advocates for community enrichment, fostering growth and empowerment among Miami-Dade County's students and families. It takes a village to give our students the highest quality education and organizations such as The Armour Dance Theatre, YMCA of Greater Miami, FIU After-School All-Stars, Recapturing the Vision, and Be Strong International; and

WHEREAS, **Armour Dance Theatre** has helped students achieve their potential through exceptional dance training, serving over 1,000 students annually across six sites and offering more than 600 scholarships. They've created educational and professional pathways for Miami-Dade County's youth, fostering essential life skills and a strong sense of belonging; and

WHEREAS, with a legacy spanning over 176 years, the **YMCA of Greater Miami**, also known as the Y, is dedicated to instilling its core values of nurturing a healthy spirit, mind, and body to over 4,000 children and youth across sixty program sites annually. From programs available to students with disabilities to providing resources for underprivileged families, the Y exemplifies the impact of community-driven initiatives; and

WHEREAS, the **FIU After-School All-Stars** chapter has supported 80,000 students for over 25 years through after-school and summer programs. Partnering with FIU and led by Sean Prospect, they nurture students' passions with customized academic support and college and career exploration, making a significant impact on the lives of countless students; and

WHEREAS, for nearly 30 years, **Recapturing the Vision** has transformed lives and strengthened families with a commitment to empowerment and growth. Through impactful programs, they ensure every child enters school healthy and safe. The founder of the program, Dr. Del Rosario, continues to inspire the community, empowering individuals to dream again, one person at a time; and

WHEREAS, in the 1980s, Althea McMillan, a former Miami-Dade County Public School teacher, witnessed the challenges faced by youth in economically disadvantaged neighborhoods. Motivated to break these, she founded **Be Strong International**. Dedicated to fostering resilience and offering relationship tools, the organization transforms communities, guiding families to healthier emotional pathways and creating opportunities for a brighter future.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, approve Resolution No. 24-050 of The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, recognizing District 9 Support programs for providing valuable support to the students and families of M-DCPS.

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

Presented this twenty-fourth day of July, A.D. 2024

THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA

SCHOOL BOARD CHAIR

ATTEST:

Secretary