

Ms. Luisa Santos, Board Member

Co-Sponsors: Ms. Lucia Baez-Geller } REVISED AT DAIS BY BOARD ACTION

SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION NO. 24-064 OF THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA, RECOGNIZING MARIA GABRIELA PACHECO

COMMITTEE: PERSONNEL, STUDENT, SCHOOL & COMMUNITY SUPPORT

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

Born in Ecuador, Maria Gabriela “Gaby” Pacheco was eight years old when she and her family arrived in the United States (U.S.) in 1993. Eventually, she would become nationally known as an immigration rights activist, giving voice to the plight of undocumented students trying to achieve career success in the U.S. Gaby Pacheco’s work has been motivated by her personal experience as a high achieving, undocumented high schooler navigating the uncertainty of college dreams with the challenge of her immigration status.

Ms. Pacheco is a staunch advocate for immigration and immigrant rights. In 2010, she and three other undocumented students led the Trail of Dreams, a four-month walk from Miami to Washington, D.C., to raise awareness about the struggles of undocumented youth. Two years later, she spearheaded the efforts that led to the announcement of the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program. On April 22, 2013, she became the first undocumented Latina to testify in front of Congress, speaking to the Senate Judiciary Committee about the urgent need for immigration reform.

As the current President and CEO of TheDream.US, she leads the nation's largest college access and career success program for undocumented students. Since undocumented students are ineligible for federal financial aid and many cannot afford university tuition, TheDream.US helps them fund their education and partners with universities to provide support throughout their studies. During its decade-old existence, TheDream.US has provided over 10,000 scholarships.

Ms. Pacheco has received numerous accolades, including Forbes magazine’s 30 Under 30 in Education; and their 40 Under 40 Latinos in American Politics. She was profiled in Elle magazine alongside America Ferrera, Olivia Wilde, Anna Kendrick and others for a feature production on the world’s most accomplished 30-year-old women. She has appeared on the June 2012 TIMES Magazine cover along with 30 other immigrant leaders. In 2015, she received a Doctoral Degree in Humanities Honoris Causa from The New School.

Ms. Pacheco is a nationally known speaker and has written many opinion pieces for several national newspapers like the New York Times, Washington Post, and US Today to name a few.

She can be seen on national television giving her opinion on networks like Univision, Telemundo, MSNBC, CNN, and CNN es Español. She holds an Associate of Arts degree in Music Education, an Associate of Science degree in Early Childhood Education, and a Bachelor of Arts in Special Education K-12 from Miami Dade College.

This resolution honors the leadership and advocacy work of Maria Gabriela “Gaby” Pacheco on behalf of Hispanic students and undocumented students in the United States, particularly in Miami-Dade County Public Schools.

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

That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, approve Resolution No. 24-064 of The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, recognizing Maria Gabriela Pacheco.

**RESOLUTION NO. 24-064 OF THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY,
FLORIDA, RECOGNIZING MARIA GABRIELA PACHECO**

WHEREAS, born in Ecuador, Maria Gabriela “Gaby” Pacheco was eight years old when she and her family arrived in the United States (U.S.) in 1993. Eventually, she would become nationally known as an immigration rights activist, giving voice to the plight of undocumented students trying to achieve career success in the U.S. Gaby Pacheco’s work has been motivated by her personal experience as a high achieving, undocumented high schooler navigating the uncertainty of college dreams with the challenge of her immigration status; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Pacheco is a staunch advocate for immigration and immigrant rights. In 2010, she and three other undocumented students led the Trail of Dreams, a four-month walk from Miami to Washington, D.C., to raise awareness about the struggles of undocumented youth. Two years later, she spearheaded the efforts that led to the announcement of the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program. On April 22, 2013, she became the first undocumented Latina to testify in front of Congress, speaking to the Senate Judiciary Committee about the urgent need for immigration reform; and

WHEREAS, As the current President and CEO of TheDream.US, she leads the nation's largest college access and career success program for undocumented students. Since undocumented students are ineligible for federal financial aid and many cannot afford university tuition, TheDream.US helps them fund their education and partners with universities to provide support throughout their studies. During its decade-old existence, TheDream.US has provided over 10,000 scholarships; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Pacheco has received numerous accolades, including Forbes magazine’s 30 Under 30 in Education; and their 40 Under 40 Latinos in American Politics. She was profiled in Elle magazine alongside America Ferrera, Olivia Wilde, Anna Kendrick and others for a feature production on the world’s most accomplished 30-year-old women. She has appeared on the June 2012 TIMES Magazine cover along with 30 other immigrant leaders. In 2015, she received a Doctoral Degree in Humanities Honoris Causa from The New School; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Pacheco is a nationally known speaker and has written many opinion pieces for several national newspapers like the New York Times, Washington Post, and US Today to name a few. She can be seen on national television giving her opinion on networks like Univision, Telemundo, MSNBC, CNN, and CNN es Español. She was part of a jazz album ensemble which won three Grammy awards in 2019. She holds an Associate of Arts degree in Music Education, an Associate of Science degree in Early Childhood Education, and a Bachelor of Arts in Special Education K-12 from Miami Dade College; and

WHEREAS, this resolution honors the leadership and advocacy work of Maria Gabriela “Gaby” Pacheco on behalf of Hispanic students and undocumented students in the United States, particularly in Miami-Dade County Public Schools;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, approve Resolution No. 24-064 of The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, recognizing Maria Gabriela Pacheco.

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

Presented this sixteenth day of October, A.D. 2024

THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA

SCHOOL BOARD CHAIR

ATTEST:

Secretary