

Mrs. Mary Blanco, Board Member

Co-Sponsors: Ms. Maria Teresa Rojas, Chair  
Ms. Monica Colucci, Vice Chair  
Mr. Roberto Alonso  
Ms. Lucia Baez-Geller  
Dr. Dorothy Bendross-Mindingall  
Dr. Steve Gallon, III  
Ms. Luisa Santos

REVISED  
AT DAIS  
BY  
BOARD  
ACTION

**SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION NO. 24-066 OF THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA, RECOGNIZING LIVE LIKE BELLA CHILDHOOD CANCER FOUNDATION**

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

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

The Live Like Bella® Foundation was founded in 2013 inspired by the life of Bella Rodriguez-Torres who died at the age of 10 years old after battling childhood cancer. The mission of Live Like Bella® is to honor Bella’s life and help children impacted by pediatric cancer. The foundation is committed to being an internationally recognized leader in childhood cancer research and advocacy while providing financial and emotional support to families whose children are battling cancer.

Live Like Bella® Foundation supports families by assisting with financial burdens that occur when a child is undergoing cancer treatment. The foundation helps with mortgage/rent payments, medical co-pays, medications, utilities, transportation costs, groceries, and numerous other unexpected expenses. Since its inception, the Live Like Bella Initiative has provided over \$6.5 million in financial assistance for families across our country and 37 other countries. In Miami-Dade County over 4,000 + families have received financial assistance. The foundation has allocated \$37 million dollars to fund lifesaving research and funded 66 clinical trials expanding the understanding of best care practices for pediatric patients.

Each year, Live Like Bella® hosts two main fundraising events to raise awareness and funds for childhood cancer research, in-treatment support and memorial financial assistance. The Live Like Bella® Superhero 5k race rallies supporters from around the world and Bella’s Ball is an annual black-tie gala in honor of childhood cancer awareness month.

Childhood cancer is the #1 disease killer of children. According to the [American Childhood Cancer Organization](#), one out of six children with cancer do not live longer than five years. Bella was a fighter, and her young life has inspired many to help other kids like her. Her legacy lives on through her parents Raymond and Shannah Rodriguez Torres, her sister Rayna, and the rest of her family, who, along with thousands of supporters, continue to fight childhood cancer in her honor.

This resolution honors the work of the Live Like Bella® Foundation. We honor the life and legacy of Bella Rodriguez-Torres who is the inspiration of this remarkable work. The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, extends its deepest gratitude to the Live Like Bella® Foundation, its leadership, and thousands of supporters for their support to students in Miami-Dade County Public Schools.

**ACTION PROPOSED BY  
MR. MARY BLANCO:**

That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, approve Resolution No. 24-066 of The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, recognizing Live Like Bella Childhood Cancer Foundation.

**RESOLUTION NO. 24-066 OF THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA,  
RECOGNIZING LIVE LIKE BELLA CHILDHOOD CANCER FOUNDATION**

**WHEREAS**, the Live Like Bella® Foundation was founded in 2013 inspired by the life of Bella Rodriguez-Torres who died at the age of 10 years old after battling childhood cancer. The mission of Live Like Bella® is to honor Bella's life and help children impacted by pediatric cancer. The foundation is committed to being an internationally recognized leader in childhood cancer research and advocacy while providing financial and emotional support to families whose children are battling cancer; and

**WHEREAS**, Live Like Bella® Foundation supports families by assisting with financial burdens that occur when a child is undergoing cancer treatment. The foundation helps with mortgage/rent payments, medical co-pays, medications, utilities, transportation costs, groceries, and numerous other unexpected expenses. Since its inception, the Live Like Bella Initiative has provided over \$6.5 million in financial assistance for families across our country and 37 other countries. In Miami-Dade County over 4,000 + families have received financial assistance. The foundation has allocated \$37 million dollars to fund lifesaving research and funded 66 clinical trials expanding the understanding of best care practices for pediatric patients; and

**WHEREAS**, each year, Live Like Bella® hosts two main fundraising events to raise awareness and funds for childhood cancer research, in-treatment support and memorial financial assistance. The Live Like Bella® Superhero 5k race rallies supporters from around the world and Bella's Ball is an annual black-tie gala in honor of childhood cancer awareness month; and

**WHEREAS** childhood cancer is the #1 disease killer of children. According to the American Childhood Cancer Organization, one out of six children with cancer do not live longer than five years. Bella was a fighter, and her young life has inspired many to help other kids like her. Her legacy lives on through her parents Raymond and Shannah Rodriguez Torres, her sister Rayna, and the rest of her family, who, along with thousands of supporters, continue to fight childhood cancer in her honor; and

**WHEREAS**, this resolution honors the work of the Live Like Bella® Foundation. We honor the life and legacy of Bella Rodriguez-Torres who is the inspiration of this remarkable work. The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, extends its deepest gratitude to the Live Like Bella® Foundation, its leadership, and thousands of supporters for their support to students in Miami-Dade County Public Schools;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT:**

The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, approve Resolution No. 24-066 of The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, recognizing Live Like Bella Childhood Cancer Foundation.

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

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SCHOOL BOARD CHAIR

ATTEST

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Secretary