

Dr. Dorothy Bendross-Mindingall, Board Member

Co-Sponsors: Ms. Maria Teresa Rojas, Chair
Ms. Monica Colucci, Vice Chair
Mr. Roberto J. Alonso
Mr. Danny Espino
Dr. Steve Gallon III
Mr. Joseph S. Geller
Ms. Luisa Santos

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SUBJECT: THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA RECOGNIZE AND OBSERVE APRIL 29 AS A DAY TO COMMEMORATE THE ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF CONGRESSWOMAN CARRIE P. MEEK IN MIAMI-DADE COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

COMMITTEE: PERSONNEL, STUDENT, SCHOOL & COMMUNITY SUPPORT

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

Carrie P. Meek was elected to the United States Congress in 1992 and was the first African American lawmaker to represent the State of Florida since the Reconstruction Era. Born Carrie Pittman on April 29, 1926, in Tallahassee Florida, Congresswoman Meek is the daughter of sharecroppers and granddaughter of slaves.

Congresswoman Meek graduated from Florida A&M University in 1946 with a Bachelor of Science degree in Biology and Education. She later attended Michigan State University to complete her graduate studies because blacks were banned from attending graduate school in Florida. In 1948, Congresswoman Meek completed her Master of Science degree in Public Health and Physical Education. The Congresswoman began her teaching career at the historic Bethune Cookman College in Daytona Beach, where she taught Biology and Physical Education. Relocating to Miami-Dade County in 1961, Congresswoman Meek spent three decades as a teacher and administrator at Miami-Dade Community College.

In 1978, Congresswoman Meek won election to the Florida House of Representatives where she served from 1978 to 1993. During her tenure, the Congresswoman served as the chairwoman of the Education Appropriations Subcommittee from 1983 to 1993. As chairwoman, she played an integral role in passing legislation that helped improve schools. After being elected to United States Congress at 66 years old, Congresswoman Meek launched an ambitious agenda that focused on the needs of her district that included issues arising from unemployment, immigration, poverty, and natural disasters.

Throughout her six terms as a member of Congress, Congresswoman Meek became a champion for the least and the lost. The Congresswoman served as a voice for those who were underrepresented and underserved by championing legislation that created jobs and provided opportunities for African Americans to have their own businesses. Additionally, Congresswoman Meek helped modify social security to cover household workers, fought for equal residency rights for Haitian Immigrants, expanded Head Start to include Early Head Start, as well as expanded the Economic Opportunity Act programs.

Today, Congresswoman Carrie P. Meek is known as the “Mother of Miami” and is respected for her commitment, dedication, and service to the people of her community.

The School Board commends the Honorable Congresswoman Carrie P. Meek for her leadership and service to the children and families of Miami-Dade County and the State of Florida.

At the School Board meeting of April 19, 2023, the Board approved Agenda Item H-16, proffered by School Board Member Dr. Dorothy Bendross-Mindingall and co-sponsored by School Board Chair Ms. Mari Tere Rojas, School Board Vice Chair Mr. Danny Espino, and School Board Members Mr. Roberto J. Alonso, Ms. Lucia Baez-Geller, Ms. Mary Blanco, Dr. Steve Gallon III, and Ms. Luisa Santos. That item requested that the Superintendent, recognize the extraordinary accomplishments of Carrie P. Meek, and review the feasibility of establishing an annual program to commemorate the accomplishments of Carrie P. Meek. On June 29, 2023, the Superintendent indicated that starting on April 29, 2024, a special program to commemorate the accomplishments of Congresswoman Carrie P. Meek will be established. The Superintendent indicated that this special program would take place annually at Carrie P. Meek/Westview K-8 Center, located at 2101 NW 127th Street, Miami, FL, 33167.

This agenda item requests the Board approval to direct the Superintendent to recognize the extraordinary accomplishments of Carrie P. Meek throughout Miami-Dade County Public Schools.

This item has been approved as to form and legal sufficiency by the Office of the General Counsel.

**ACTION PROPOSED BY
DR. DOROTHY BENDROSS-MINDINGALL:**

That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, authorize the Superintendent to recognize the extraordinary accomplishments of Carrie P. Meek throughout Miami-Dade County Public Schools on April 29, 2025.