

Ms. Mary Blanco, School Board Member

SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION NO. 25-027 OF THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA, RECOGNIZING VICTOR BALMECEDA

COMMITTEE: PERSONNEL, STUDENT, SCHOOL & COMMUNITY SUPPORT

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

Victor Balmececa, Head Wrestling Coach at South Dade Senior High, is quoted by student athlete Alex Hernandez as always saying, "what we do in life echoes in eternity." Having earned 27 State Titles, 21 Regional Championships, 28 District Championships, and coaching 86 Individual State Champions, Victor Balmececa is the most decorated wrestling coach in Florida history. For the last 31 years, Coach Balmececa has led the South Dade Senior High School Buccaneers wrestling team to victory since 1994. This year, after countless titles and national media coverage, Coach Balmececa has announced his official retirement from the ring at South Dade Senior High School.

Beginning his career as a star wrestler at Southwest Miami Senior High, Balmececa won the Greater Miami Athletic Conference (GMAC) championship as a junior and finished 32-1 as a senior. He continued to excel at the next level, becoming a JUCO All-American at Chowan College, and an NCAA Division I tournament qualifier at Appalachian State University.

With Balmececa as coach, the legendary South Dade Buccaneers have amassed an extraordinary athletic record of achievements in wrestling. In 2008, the Buccaneers "Beat the Streak" by defeating Brandon High School in a nationally televised match, ending the longest winning streak in sports history of 459 consecutive match wins, capturing national media recognition. Additionally, the team has also been nationally recognized for the "Most Takedowns in a Single Dual Meet" by Wrestling USA Magazine. Coach Balmececa was inducted into the Florida chapter of the National Wrestling Hall of Fame in 2014 for his truly unparalleled efforts and successes in the high school wrestling world.

With Coach Balmececa at the helm, South Dade Senior High School has acquired 18 Florida High School Athletic Association (FHSAA) Individual Bracketed Tournament State Championships; 7 FHSAA Dual Meet State Championships; 132 Individual State Placers; 25 Individual National Champions; 20 Individual National Runners-Up; 119 Individual High School All Americans; 19 Individual College Level National Champions; and 35 Individual College Level All Americans.

Mr. Balmececa's legacy will continue outside of the ring. While retiring as Head Coach of the Buccaneers Wrestling Team, Mr. Balmececa plans to continue his 31-year career in the classroom at South Dade Senior High School as an ESE teacher. Coach Balmececa has been married to his high school sweetheart, Susan for 29 years. They have two sons, Brevin and Gavin. In an article for the Miami Herald, Susan states, "I am a proud wife. I am proud of his career." Susan is looking forward to spending more time together with the whole family.

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

That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, approve Resolution No. 25-027 of The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, recognizing Victor Balmececa.

**RESOLUTION NO. 25-027 OF THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA,
RECOGNIZING VICTOR BALMECEDA**

WHEREAS, Victor Balmededa, Head Wrestling Coach at South Dade Senior High, is quoted by student athlete Alex Hernandez as always saying, "what we do in life echoes in eternity." Having earned 27 State Titles, 21 Regional Championships, 28 District Championships, and coaching 86 Individual State Champions, Victor Balmededa is the most decorated wrestling coach in Florida history. For the last 31 years, Coach Balmededa has led the South Dade Senior High School Buccaneers wrestling team to victory since 1994. This year, after countless titles and national media coverage, Coach Balmededa has announced his official retirement from the ring at South Dade Senior High School; and

WHEREAS, beginning his career as a star wrestler at Southwest Miami Senior High, Balmededa won the Greater Miami Athletic Conference (GMAC) championship as a junior and finished 32-1 as a senior. He continued to excel at the next level, becoming a JUCO All-American at Chowan College, and an NCAA Division I tournament qualifier at Appalachian State University; and

WHEREAS, with Balmededa as coach, the legendary South Dade Buccaneers have amassed an extraordinary athletic record of achievements in wrestling. In 2008, the Buccaneers "Beat the Streak" by defeating Brandon High School in a nationally televised match, ending the longest winning streak in sports history of 459 consecutive match wins, capturing national media recognition. Additionally, the team has also been nationally recognized for the "Most Takedowns in a Single Dual Meet" by Wrestling USA Magazine. Coach Balmededa was inducted into the Florida chapter of the National Wrestling Hall of Fame in 2014 for his truly unparalleled efforts and successes in the high school wrestling world; and

WHEREAS, with Coach Balmededa at the helm, South Dade Senior High School has acquired 18 Florida High School Athletic Association (FHSAA) Individual Bracketed Tournament State Championships; 7 FHSAA Dual Meet State Championships; 132 Individual State Placers; 25 Individual National Champions; 20 Individual National Runners-Up; 119 Individual High School All Americans; 19 Individual College Level National Champions; and 35 Individual College Level All Americans; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Balmededa's legacy will continue outside of the ring. While retiring as Head Coach of the Buccaneers Wrestling Team, Mr. Balmededa plans to continue his 31-year career in the classroom at South Dade Senior High School as an ESE teacher. Coach Balmededa has been married to his high school sweetheart, Susan for 29 years. They have two sons, Brevin and Gavin. In an article for the *Miami Herald*, Susan states, "I am a proud wife. I am proud of his career." Susan is looking forward to spending more time together with the whole family;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, approve Resolution No. 25-027 of The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, recognizing Victor Balmededa.

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

Presented this eighteenth day of June, A.D. 2025.

THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA

SCHOOL BOARD CHAIR

ATTEST

Secretary