

Dr. Bendross-Mindingall, Board Member

SUBJECT: THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA, RECOGNIZES JUNE NINETEENTH, 2025, AS JUNETEENTH TO BE CELEBRATED IN ALL MIAMI-DADE COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS (M-DCPS)

COMMITTEE: ACADEMICS, INNOVATION, EVALUATION & TECHNOLOGY

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

Juneteenth, celebrated on June 19th, marks the day in 1865 when enslaved African Americans in Galveston, Texas was finally informed of their freedom, more than two years after the Emancipation Proclamation had been issued by President Abraham Lincoln. The delay in notification is a stark reminder of the systemic injustices and the resilience of Black communities in the ongoing fight for equity and human dignity.

It was the United States Colored Troops (USCT), who dispatched from City Point, VA as a show of force along the Texas/Mexico border to France's Maximilian, ran into a storm in the Gulf of Mexico and were forced to land in Galveston, Texas on June 19, 1865. Over 4,000 United States Colored Troops bivouac on the island that day bringing realization to the rumors of freedom to those still enslaved, while General Order #3 was posted on the door of the Colored church informing all, of their Absolute Equality.

In 2021, Juneteenth was officially recognized as a federal holiday. Since then, it has grown in national significance as a day not just of celebration, but of education, remembrance, and continued advocacy for racial justice. While there is not one official, universally adopted theme for Juneteenth celebrations nationwide, the National Museum of African American History and Culture's 2025 Juneteenth event is titled "Power in the past, strength in the future."

This theme emphasizes historical resilience, cultural inheritance, hope, and progress with an intergenerational responsibility to convert remembrance into action and pain into policy.

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

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

That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, observe and celebrate Juneteenth as a day of reflection and education in all Miami-Dade County Public Schools.