

Ms. Maria Teresa Rojas, Chair

SUBJECT: REQUEST APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION NO. 25-037 OF THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA, RECOGNIZING MR. WILLIAM J. MONTFORD III, FORMER FLORIDA STATE SENATOR AND CURRENT CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER (CEO) OF THE FLORIDA ASSOCIATION OF DISTRICT SCHOOL SUPERINTENDENTS (FADSS)

COMMITTEE: PERSONNEL, STUDENT, SCHOOL, & COMMUNITY SUPPORT

LINK TO STRATEGIC PLAN: INFORMED, ENGAGED & EMPOWERED STAKEHOLDERS

William “Bill” J. Montford III was born in Marianna, Florida and raised in Blountstown, Florida. He is an alumnus of Chipola College in Marianna and received his undergraduate and graduate degrees from Florida State University in Tallahassee.

In 1969, Mr. Montford began teaching mathematics at Belle Vue Middle School in Tallahassee and went on to serve as a school administrator for over 25 years, including seven years as an assistant principal and 18 years as a high school principal at Godby High School and Lincoln High School. He served two terms as a Leon County Commissioner from 1982 to 1988 and was elected Superintendent of Schools of Leon County Public Schools in 1996, a position he held until 2006.

In 2010, Mr. Montford was elected to the Florida Senate from the 6th District and was the Senate Minority Whip from 2010-2012. He was reelected in 2016 and served as the Minority Leader Pro Tempore in the Florida Senate from 2018-2020.

Senator Montford has received numerous awards, honors, and recognitions for his work to advance educational opportunities for students in Florida and has served his community through organizations such as the Tallahassee Chamber of Commerce, Urban Superintendents Association of America, Healthy Florida Foundation, and Florida Endowment Foundation for Florida’s Graduates, among many others. In 2016, the Council of Florida College Presidents awarded him the prestigious Dr. James L. Wattenbarger Award for his lifelong service to education.

Senator Montford currently serves as the Chief Executive Officer of the Florida Association of District School Superintendents (FADSS). In his role as CEO of FADSS, he firmly believes that the role of a superintendent is that of a servant leader. He defines servant leadership as a philosophy in which the goal of the leader is to serve. He has further stated that servant leaders are successful in bringing out the best in any organization by putting the needs, growth, and wellbeing of followers first.

His work as a former superintendent of schools provides a powerful foundation to guide and mentor current and future superintendents across the state of Florida. With firsthand experience navigating the complexities of district leadership, Senator Montford brings valuable insight into effective policy implementation, community engagement, and student-centered decision-making. His proven track record of leading with integrity and vision serves as a model for others, offering both practical strategies and inspirational leadership to help superintendents meet the evolving needs of Florida’s diverse school communities.

In honoring a lifelong educational leader who has consistently led with distinction, the Miami-Dade School Board pays tribute to a legacy defined by unwavering dedication, visionary leadership, and a deep commitment to student success. Senator Montford's enduring impact will continue to inspire generations of learners and educators alike.

ACTION PROPOSED BY CHAIR

MS. MARIA TERESA ROJAS: That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, approve Resolution No. 25-037 of The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, recognizing Mr. William "Bill" J. Montford III, former Florida State Senator and current Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the Florida Association of District School Superintendents (FADSS).

RESOLUTION NO. 25-037 OF THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA, RECOGNIZING MR. WILLIAM “BILL” J. MONTFORD III, FORMER FLORIDA STATE SENATOR AND CURRENT CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER (CEO) OF THE FLORIDA ASSOCIATION OF DISTRICT SCHOOL SUPERINTENDENTS (FADSS)

WHEREAS, William “Bill” J. Montford III was born in Marianna, Florida and raised in Blountstown, Florida. He is an alumnus of Chipola College in Marianna and received his undergraduate and graduate degrees from Florida State University in Tallahassee;

WHEREAS, in 1969, Mr. Montford began teaching mathematics at Belle Vue Middle School in Tallahassee and went on to serve as a school administrator for over 25 years, including seven years as an assistant principal and 18 years as a high school principal at Godby High School and Lincoln High School;

WHEREAS, he served two terms as a Leon County Commissioner from 1982 to 1988 and was elected Superintendent of Schools of Leon County Public Schools in 1996, a post he held until 2006;

WHEREAS, in 2010, Montford was elected to the Florida Senate from the 6th District and was the Senate Minority Whip from 2010-2012. He was reelected in 2016 and served as the Minority Leader Pro Tempore in the Florida Senate from 2018-2020;

WHEREAS, In 2016, the Council of Florida College Presidents awarded him the prestigious Dr. James L. Wattenbarger Award for his lifelong service to education; and

WHEREAS, Senator Montford currently serves as the Chief Executive Officer of the Florida Association of District School Superintendents (FADSS).

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, approve Resolution NO. 25-037 of the School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, recognizing Mr. William “Bill” J. Montford III, Former Florida State Senator and current Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the Florida Association of District School Superintendents (FADSS).

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

Presented this twelfth day of August, A. D. 2025

THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA

SCHOOL BOARD CHAIR

ATTEST:

Secretary