

Ms. Monica Colucci, Vice Chair

SUBJECT: REQUEST APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION NO. 25-045 OF THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA, RECOGNIZING DR. DIANA AZZAM, PHD

COMMITTEE: PERSONNEL, STUDENT, SCHOOL, & COMMUNITY SUPPORT

LINK TO STRATEGIC PLAN: INFORMED, ENGAGED & EMPOWERED STAKEHOLDERS

Dr. Diana Azzam, PHD, is an Associate Professor at Florida International University (FIU) and the Scientific Director of the Center for Advancing Personalized Cancer Treatments (CAPCT). She holds a master's degree in Biochemistry from the American University of Beirut, Lebanon, and a PhD in Molecular Biology from the University of Miami, Florida.

Dr. Azzam's research focuses on implementing functional precision medicine (FPM) in cancer treatment, which involves testing live tumor cells from individual patients against hundreds of FDA-approved drugs to quickly identify effective, personalized therapies. This work specifically targets patients with advanced or therapy-resistant cancers who have exhausted standard treatment options.

Dr. Azzam collaborates with hospitals like Nicklaus Children's Hospital and Cleveland Clinic, Florida, to deliver cancer treatment recommendations based on both genomic profiles and direct drug sensitivity testing. She is leading clinical studies to assess the efficacy and clinical utility of FPM in both pediatric and adult cancer patients. Dr. Azzam's broader aims include establishing the first cancer drug testing lab in Florida, launching multi-center clinical trials, and applying FPM to address health disparities in childhood cancer, particularly among minority populations.

Dr. Azzam's work is notable for rapid, personalized treatment recommendations that have contributed to marked improvements in patient outcomes, as exemplified in successful cases like a child with relapsed leukemia who achieved remission thanks to FPM-guided therapy.

Dr. Azzam's research has received funding and recognition from sources including the National Institute of Health and the Live Like Bella Pediatric Cancer Foundation, and she co-founded First Ascent Biomedical to expand access to personalized cancer care through academic and private-sector innovation.

**ACTION PROPOSED BY
MS. MONICA COLUCCI:**

That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, approve Resolution No. 25-045 of The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, recognizing Dr. Diana Azzam, PhD.

**REPLACEMENT
B-6**

**RESOLUTION NO. 25-045 OF THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA,
RECOGNIZING DR. DIANA AZZAM, PHD**

WHEREAS, Dr. Diana Azzam is an Associate Professor at Florida International University (FIU) and the Scientific Director of the Center for Advancing Personalized Cancer Treatments (CAPCT);

WHEREAS, Dr. Azzam holds a master’s degree in Biochemistry from the American University of Beirut, Lebanon, and a PhD in Molecular Biology from the University of Miami, Florida;

WHEREAS, Dr. Azzam collaborates with hospitals like Nicklaus Children’s Hospital and Cleveland Clinic, Florida, to deliver cancer treatment recommendations based on both genomic profiles and direct drug sensitivity testing;

WHEREAS, Dr. Azzam is leading clinical studies to assess the efficacy and clinical utility of FPM in both pediatric and adult cancer patients;

WHEREAS, Dr. Azzam’s broader aims include establishing the first cancer drug testing lab in Florida, launching multi-center clinical trials, and applying FPM to address health disparities in childhood cancer, particularly among minority populations;

WHEREAS, Dr. Azzam’s work is notable for rapid, personalized treatment recommendations that have contributed to marked improvements in patient outcomes, as exemplified in successful cases like a child with relapsed leukemia who achieved remission thanks to FPM-guided therapy;

WHEREAS, Dr. Azzam’s research has received funding and recognition from sources including the National Institute of Health and the Live Like Bella Pediatric Cancer Foundation; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Azzam co-founded First Ascent Biomedical to expand access to personalized cancer care through academic and private-sector innovation.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, approve Resolution No. 25-045 of The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, recognizing Dr. Diana Azzam, PHD.

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

Presented this eighth day of October, A. D. 2025
THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA

SCHOOL BOARD CHAIR

ATTEST: _____
Secretary