

Ms. Mary Blanco, School Board Member

SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION NO. 26-011 OF THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA, RECOGNIZING DR. CATHY INGRAHAM BATTON AND THE MIAMI KILLIAN SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL CLASS OF 1968

COMMITTEE: PERSONNEL, STUDENT, SCHOOL & COMMUNITY SUPPORT

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

Dr. Cathy Ingraham Batton is a distinguished author, educator, ordained minister, and community leader whose life’s work reflects an unwavering commitment to service, education, and the preservation of our shared history. For more than two decades, she served as a professional counselor in Miami-Dade County, where she held leadership roles as President of the Professional Counseling Association, established and produced a countywide Suicide Prevention Hotline, and was recognized by the State of Florida as “Most Outstanding Counselor.” In recognition of her exemplary professional and volunteer service, she received the President’s Lifetime Achievement Award in 2025.

Beyond her clinical career, Dr. Batton has touched countless lives as an educator, teaching English and Creative Writing at Florida Memorial University, and as an ordained pastor since 1976, serving in multiple ministries and spending over a decade as a missionary in Asia providing medical outreach and leadership training to local communities. As an internationally acclaimed keynote speaker and founder of the Cathy Batton Organization, she has delivered messages of empowerment, leadership development, family and community growth, and faith-based service across diverse audiences.

Dr. Batton is also the author of *Legacy Project: Miami Killian Senior High School Class of 1968*, a seminal work documenting the firsthand testimonies of the first integrated graduating class of Miami Killian Senior High School—the first high school in Miami-Dade County designed to educate both Black and White students. Through this publication, she has preserved a vital chapter of local and state history, illuminating the challenges and triumphs of students navigating desegregation and social change, and fostering greater understanding of an important period in local and state history.

The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, proudly honors Dr. Cathy Ingraham Batton for her remarkable achievements as an educator, counselor, minister, and author. We also celebrate the Miami Killian Senior High School Class of 1968 for their profound impact on the historical and educational landscape of Miami-Dade County.

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

That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, approve Resolution No. 26-011 of The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, recognizing Dr. Cathy Ingraham Batton and the Miami Killian Senior High School Class of 1968.

**RESOLUTION NO. 26-011
OF THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA,
RECOGNIZING DR. CATHY INGRAHAM BATTON AND
THE MIAMI KILLIAN SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL
CLASS OF 1968**

WHEREAS, Dr. Cathy Ingraham Batton is a distinguished author, educator, ordained minister, and community leader whose life's work reflects an unwavering commitment to service, education, and the preservation of our shared history; and

WHEREAS, for more than two decades, she served as a professional counselor in Miami-Dade County, where she held leadership roles as President of the Professional Counseling Association, established and produced a countywide Suicide Prevention Hotline, and was recognized by the State of Florida as "Most Outstanding Counselor." In recognition of her exemplary professional and volunteer service, she received the President's Lifetime Achievement Award in 2025; and

WHEREAS, beyond her clinical career, Dr. Batton has touched countless lives as an educator, teaching English and Creative Writing at Florida Memorial University, and as an ordained pastor since 1976, serving in multiple ministries and spending over a decade as a missionary in Asia providing medical outreach and leadership training to local communities. As an internationally acclaimed keynote speaker and founder of the Cathy Batton Organization, she has delivered messages of empowerment, leadership development, family and community growth, and faith-based service across diverse audiences; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Batton is also the author of *Legacy Project: Miami Killian Senior High School Class of 1968*, a seminal work documenting the firsthand testimonies of the first integrated graduating class of Miami Killian Senior High School—the first high school in Miami-Dade County designed to educate both Black and White students. Through this publication, she has preserved a vital chapter of local and state history, illuminating the challenges and triumphs of students navigating desegregation and social change, and fostering greater understanding of an important period in local and state history; and

WHEREAS, The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, proudly honors Dr. Cathy Ingraham Batton for her remarkable achievements as a counselor, educator, minister, and author. We also celebrate the Miami Killian Senior High School Class of 1968 for their profound impact on the historical and educational landscape of Miami-Dade County;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, approve Resolution No. 26-011 of The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, recognizing Dr. Cathy Ingraham Batton and the Miami Killian Senior High School Class of 1968.

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

Presented this eleventh day of February, A.D. 2026

THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA

SCHOOL BOARD CHAIR

ATTEST

Secretary