

Ms. Maria Teresa Rojas, Chair

SUBJECT: HONORING A LEGACY: FORMER MIAMI-DADE COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD MEMBER DR. ROSA CASTRO FEINBERG

COMMITTEE: PERSONNEL, STUDENT, SCHOOL, & COMMUNITY SUPPORT

LINK TO STRATEGIC PLAN: INFORMED, ENGAGED & EMPOWERED STAKEHOLDERS

Miami-Dade County Public Schools (M-DCPS) is deeply saddened by the passing of former Miami-Dade School Board Member, Dr. Rosa Castro Feinberg, whose life and leadership profoundly shaped this school district. Her unwavering commitment to English Language Learners; steadfast advocacy for our most vulnerable students; and courageous leadership on issues impacting Hispanic students, teachers, staff, and the entire community left an enduring mark on countless lives. Appointed by former Governor Bob Graham to serve as a Board Member in 1986, she was the first Hispanic women elected to the Miam-Dade School Board in 1988, serving until 1996.

She led with compassion, integrity, and a deep belief that every student—regardless of background or circumstance—deserves opportunity, dignity, and a voice. Her service was driven not by recognition, but by a genuine devotion to equity and justice in education. Her legacy lives on in the policies she helped shape, the students she uplifted, and the school community she strengthened.

Dr. Castro Feinberg earned a Ph.D. in Educational Administration from the University of Miami. Her primary scholarly focus and lifelong commitment to education centered on students whose first language was not English, particularly English language acquisition and English Language Learners, as well as the professional development of teachers who serve these populations. In addition to her work on the School Board, she served as an Associate Professor in the College of Education at Florida International University from 1990 to 2003. Prior to that, she was a Research Professor at the University of Miami. Dr. Castro Feinberg was also a pioneer in the development and codification of the 1990 League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC) Consent Decree.

Some of the many committees and organizations she served with pride and integrity were as consultant for the Office of Civil Rights of the U.S. Department of Education and the Office of Bilingual Education and Minority Language Affairs, staff member and subsequently the Director of the University of Miami's National Origin Desegregation Assistance Center, Florida State Task Force on Bilingual Education, Florida State Task Force on Migrant Education, Florida Post-Secondary Education Planning Commission, and the Florida State Advisor Council on Bilingual Education. Additionally, she served as a Board Member of the Spanish American League Against Discrimination (SALAD) and of ASPIRA of Florida, and a distinguished and active member of the National Association for Bilingual Education, just to name a few.

A steadfast champion for issues affecting the Hispanic school community, she gave voice to families who were too often unheard and worked relentlessly to expand access, opportunity, and representation. Her advocacy helped shape policies that strengthened bilingual education and affirmed the cultural richness of our schools. Her legacy lives on in the countless students,

educators, and families whose lives were transformed by her courage and vision, and she will be remembered as a principled leader who dedicated her life to justice, dignity, and educational excellence for all.

The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, on behalf of the entire school community, extends our heartfelt condolences to her family, friends, and all those who had the honor and privilege of working alongside Dr. Rosa Castro Feinberg.

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

ACTION PROPOSED BY CHAIR

MS. MARIA TERESA ROJAS: That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, honor the legacy of Miami-Dade County former School Board Member Dr. Rosa Castro Feinberg, a principled leader who dedicated her life to justice, dignity, and educational excellence for all.