

Ms. Maria Teresa Rojas, Chair

SUBJECT: REQUEST APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION NO. 26-013 OF THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA, RECOGNIZING MS. JENNIFER JIMENEZ, BAND DIRECTOR AT SOUTH MIAMI SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL, RECIPIENT OF THE 2026 RECORDING ACADEMY'S MUSIC EDUCATOR AWARD (GRAMMY)

COMMITTEE: PERSONNEL, STUDENT, SCHOOL, & COMMUNITY SUPPORT

LINK TO STRATEGIC PLAN: HIGHLY EFFECTIVE TACHERS, LEADERS, & STAFF

Ms. Jennifer Jimenez, a 2019 Kennedy Center Sondheim Inspirational Teaching Award winner, is currently in her nineteenth year as the Band Director and Electives Department Chair at South Miami Senior High School. The Kennedy Center/Stephen Soundheim Inspirational Teacher Award was established in 2010 to honor Stephen Sondheim's 80th birthday and to recognize K-12 and college teachers who have made a profound impact on their students.

Ms. Jimenez was recently recognized as the recipient of the 2026 Music Educator Award presented by the Recording Academy and Grammy Museum. The Music Educator Award recognizes current educators who have made a significant and lasting contribution to the music education field and demonstrates a commitment to the broader cause of maintaining music education in schools.

For the first time in Miami-Dade County Public Schools (M-DCPS) history, one of our very own took home a GRAMMY. Ms. Jimenez emerged from a field of more than 2,000 instructors nationwide and earned this national recognition for her work in music education. This achievement marks a significant advancement in the recognition and promotion of music education in Miami and beyond. Such progress is made possible through the leadership and dedication of passionate educators like Ms. Jimenez, whose commitment continues to elevate and inspire the field.

Ms. Jimenez started her teaching career as a music teacher at West Miami Middle School in 2004 and transferred to South Miami Senior High School in 2007. She has received numerous awards including the Florida Bandmaster's Association-District 16 Oliver Hobbs Award for Music Excellence, the Give a Note Foundation and 21st Century Fox's MusicEd Idol Teacher of the Year. She is also a National Board Certified Teacher.

Ms. Jimenez, a native of Nebraska, fell in love with teaching and the Miami community during her days as a student at the University of Miami, where she was later inducted into the Band Hall of Fame. Throughout her teaching career, Ms. Jimenez has served as a standard-bearer for excellence, community building, and music education advocacy. Her firm belief that "band is the family that you choose" has led her and her students to build a unique community that uplifts and inspires students and families.

Her passion and standard of excellence have culminated in student performances at Carnegie Hall and two Super Bowls. In addition to her teaching, Ms. Jimenez is an avid grant writer, securing over \$84,000 for her program. She has supported aspiring teachers by being a clinical supervising teacher and has supported her colleagues through district and state presentations, serving as an adjudicator, and through her active roles in the Florida Bandmaster's Association and a charter and state board member for Women Band Director International's Florida chapter.

As an advocate of music education for her students and community, Ms. Jimenez earned Florida International University's Graduate Research Award for her work focusing on underrepresented populations in music education. Additionally, she has collaborated with the Greater Miami Youth Symphony (GMYS) to bring free and reduced-cost music programs and camps to the students of Miami. An active professional musician, Ms. Jimenez is the principal percussionist for the Miami Symphony Orchestra.

Ms. Jimenez enjoys a beautiful community and family, including her husband, Desi, their children, Noah and Eden, and their puppy, Obi-Wan.

ACTION PROPOSED BY CHAIR

MS. MARIA TERESA ROJAS: That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, approve Resolution No. 26-013 of The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, recognizing Ms. Jennifer Jimenez, Band Director at South Miami Senior High School and the recipient of the 2026 Recording Academy's Music Educator Award (GRAMMY).

RESOLUTION NO. 26-013 OF THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA, RECOGNIZING MS. JENNIFER JIMENEZ, BAND DIRECTOR AT SOUTH MIAMI SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL, RECIPIENT OF THE 2026 RECORDING ACADEMY'S MUSIC EDUCATOR AWARD (GRAMMY)

WHEREAS, Ms. Jennifer Jimenez, a 2019 Kennedy Center Sondheim Inspirational Teaching Award winner, is currently in her nineteenth year as the Band Director and Electives Department Chair at South Miami Senior High School;

WHEREAS, Ms. Jimenez was recently recognized as the recipient of the 2026 Music Educator Award presented by the Recording Academy and Grammy Museum;

WHEREAS, the Music Educator Award recognizes current educators who have made a significant and lasting contribution to the music education field and demonstrates a commitment to the broader cause of maintaining music education in schools;

WHEREAS, for the first time in Miami-Dade County Public Schools (M-DCPS) history, one of our very own took home a GRAMMY. Ms. Jimenez emerged from a field of more than 2,000 instructors nationwide and earned this national recognition for her work in music education;

WHEREAS, she has received numerous awards including the Florida Bandmaster's Association-District 16 Oliver Hobbs Award for Music Excellence, the Give a Note Foundation and 21st Century Fox's MusicEd Idol Teacher of the Year. She is also a National Board Certified Teacher;

WHEREAS, Ms. Jimenez, a native of Nebraska, fell in love with teaching and the Miami community during her days as a student at the University of Miami, where she was later inducted into the Band Hall of Fame;

WHEREAS, as an advocate of music education for her students and community, Ms. Jimenez earned Florida International University's Graduate Research Award for her work focusing on underrepresented populations in music education; and

WHEREAS, she has collaborated with the Greater Miami Youth Symphony (GMYS) to bring free and reduced-cost music programs and camps to the students of Miami. Ms. Jimenez is the principal percussionist for the Miami Symphony Orchestra.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, approve Resolution No. 26-013 of The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, recognizing Ms. Jennifer Jimenez, Band Director at South Miami Senior High School, recipient of the 2026 Recording Academy's Music Educator Award (GRAMMY).

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

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

THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA

SCHOOL BOARD CHAIR

ATTEST:

Secretary