

Dr. Bendross-Mindingall, Board Member

SUBJECT: REQUEST APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION NO. 26-039 OF THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA, RECOGNIZING MATTHEW A. PIGATT FOR HIS OUTSTANDING CONTRIBUTIONS AND DEDICATION TO THE MIAMI-DADE COUNTY COMMUNITY

COMMITTEE: PERSONNEL, STUDENT, SCHOOL & COMMUNITY SUPPORT

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

Matthew A. Pigatt is an educator, author, community leader, and public servant whose career has focused on advancing education, civic engagement, and community empowerment. A South Florida native, he graduated magna cum laude from Morehouse College with a Bachelor of Arts in African American Studies and Psychology. During his undergraduate years, Pigatt secured more than \$100,000 in scholarships, fellowships, and paid academic and professional opportunities. His research took him to academic programs at Morehouse College, the University of California, Berkeley, and Emory University, as well as international study experiences in Paris, France, and Dar es Salaam, Tanzania. His research examined the academic success of high-achieving Black men, contributing to broader conversations about educational equity and student achievement.

Following graduation, Pigatt returned to South Florida, where he devoted himself to community organizing and youth development. He became actively involved with People Acting for Community Together (PACT), serving on its Juvenile Justice Committee and advocating for reforms that helped reduce out-of-school suspensions in Miami-Dade County Public Schools. He also assumed leadership roles within the 100 Black Men of South Florida Leadership Academy, mentoring young people and supporting educational initiatives. During this period, he founded the South Florida HBCU Picnic, which grew into one of the region's largest celebrations of Historically Black Colleges and Universities, and established the Sankofa Cypher, an organization dedicated to promoting African and African American history, culture, and intellectual engagement.

Matthew Pigatt entered public office in 2016 when he was elected to the Opa-locka City Commission, becoming one of the youngest elected officials in South Florida. As a commissioner, he supported infrastructure improvements, including investments in the city's water system, enhancements to water billing operations, street resurfacing projects, and efforts to reduce residential sanitation costs through contract negotiations. He also emphasized transparency, neighborhood engagement, and responsive local government while working to address quality-of-life issues affecting residents. In 2018, Pigatt was elected Mayor of Opa-locka, becoming one of the youngest mayors in Florida. His administration focused on strengthening municipal governance, improving infrastructure, promoting economic development, and rebuilding public confidence in city leadership following a period of significant financial and administrative challenges. Throughout his tenure, he emphasized accountability, community partnerships, and sustainable growth.

Beyond elected office, Pigatt has continued to serve as an author, speaker, and advocate for educational excellence. He is the author of *The Academic Hustle*, a guide designed to help students secure scholarships, internships, fellowships, and other academic and professional opportunities while successfully navigating higher education. As a national speaker, he has presented on topics including leadership, civic engagement, educational achievement, mentoring, and Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs). His work has earned recognition from organizations such as Legacy Magazine, which named him to its "40 Under 40" list; *The Miami Times*, which recognized him as part of its "New Generation of Dreamers"; and Harvard Business School, through its Young American Leaders Program.

**REPLACEMENT
B-5**

This resolution recognizes Matthew A. Pigatt for his unwavering commitment to public service and community leadership. Throughout his career, he has combined scholarship, mentorship, and civic engagement to expand opportunities for others, establishing himself as a respected voice in educational advocacy and community development.

**ACTION PROPOSED BY MEMBER
DR. DOROTHY BENDROSS-MINDINGALL:**

That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, approve Resolution 26-039 of The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, recognizing Matthew A. Pigatt for his outstanding contributions and dedication to the Miami-Dade County community.

**RESOLUTION NO. 26-039 OF THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA, RECOGNIZING
MATTHEW A. PIGATT FOR HIS OUTSTANDING CONTRIBUTIONS AND
DEDICATION TO THE MIAMI-DADE COUNTY COMMUNITY**

WHEREAS, Matthew A. Pigatt is an educator, author, community leader, and public servant whose career has focused on advancing education, civic engagement, and community empowerment. A South Florida native, he graduated magna cum laude from Morehouse College with a Bachelor of Arts in African American Studies and Psychology. During his undergraduate years, Pigatt secured more than \$100,000 in scholarships, fellowships, and paid academic and professional opportunities. His research took him to academic programs at Morehouse College, the University of California, Berkeley, and Emory University, as well as international study experiences in Paris, France, and Dar es Salaam, Tanzania. His research examined the academic success of high-achieving Black men, contributing to broader conversations about educational equity and student achievement; and

WHEREAS, following graduation, Pigatt returned to South Florida, where he devoted himself to community organizing and youth development. He became actively involved with People Acting for Community Together (PACT), serving on its Juvenile Justice Committee and advocating for reforms that helped reduce out-of-school suspensions in Miami-Dade County Public Schools. He also assumed leadership roles within the 100 Black Men of South Florida Leadership Academy, mentoring young people and supporting educational initiatives. During this period, he founded the South Florida HBCU Picnic, which grew into one of the region's largest celebrations of Historically Black Colleges and Universities, and established the Sankofa Cypher, an organization dedicated to promoting African and African American history, culture, and intellectual engagement; and

WHEREAS, Matthew Pigatt entered public office in 2016 when he was elected to the Opa-locka City Commission, becoming one of the youngest elected officials in South Florida. As a commissioner, he supported infrastructure improvements, including investments in the city's water system, enhancements to water billing operations, street resurfacing projects, and efforts to reduce residential sanitation costs through contract negotiations. He also emphasized transparency, neighborhood engagement, and responsive local government while working to address quality-of-life issues affecting residents. In 2018, Pigatt was elected Mayor of Opa-locka, becoming one of the youngest mayors in Florida. His administration focused on strengthening municipal governance, improving infrastructure, promoting economic development, and rebuilding public confidence in city leadership following a period of significant financial and administrative challenges. Throughout his tenure, he emphasized accountability, community partnerships, and sustainable growth; and

WHEREAS, beyond elected office, Pigatt has continued to serve as an author, speaker, and advocate for educational excellence. He is the author of *The Academic Hustle*, a guide designed to help students secure scholarships, internships, fellowships, and other academic and professional opportunities while successfully navigating higher education. As a national speaker, he has presented on topics including leadership, civic engagement, educational achievement, mentoring, and Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs). His work has earned recognition from organizations such as Legacy Magazine, which named him to its "40 Under 40" list; *The Miami Times*, which recognized him as part of its "New Generation of Dreamers"; and Harvard Business School, through its Young American Leaders Program; and

WHEREAS, this resolution recognizes Matthew A. Pigatt for his unwavering commitment to public service and community leadership. Throughout his career, he has combined scholarship, mentorship, and civic engagement to expand opportunities for others, establishing himself as a respected voice in educational advocacy and community development;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, approve Resolution 26-039 of The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, recognizing Matthew A. Pigatt for his outstanding contributions and dedication to the Miami-Dade County community.

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

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

THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA

SCHOOL BOARD CHAIR

ATTEST:

Secretary