

Ms. Luisa Santos, Board Member

SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION NO. 26-044 OF THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA, RECOGNIZING THE SOUTHWOOD MIDDLE SCHOOL SUPERSTARS AND CORAL REEF SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL VARSITY CUDETTES DANCE TEAMS

COMMITTEE: PERSONNEL, STUDENT, SCHOOL & COMMUNITY SUPPORT

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

Our Miami-Dade County Public Schools (M-DCPS) students continue to distinguish themselves on the national and international stage, demonstrating that talent, discipline, hard work, and dedication can lead to extraordinary achievement. The recent historic accomplishments by the Southwood Middle School Superstars Dance Team and the Coral Reef Senior High School Varsity Cudettes exemplify the excellence of our students and their coaches and directors.

The Southwood Middle School Superstars Dance Team made history as the first M-DCPS middle school to compete at the ICU World Championships, winning the USA Youth Hip Hop Team World Championship, along with the 2026 Junior High Jazz and 2026 Junior Hip Hop National Championship titles, and receiving the Choreography Award for a jazz piece among Elementary, Junior High, and Junior Varsity High School teams. The Southwood Middle School dance program is led by Magnet Dance Director and Superstars Dance Team Director Hilda Jimenez, who has served as the dance director at Southwood for 33 years, alongside Assistant Coach Julianna Acosta and Technical Director Miranda Jimenez.

The Coral Reef Senior High School Varsity Cudettes reached unprecedented heights, becoming the first high school to win gold medals in both Junior Hip Hop and Premier Jazz at the ICU World Championships, representing Team USA. The Cudettes also secured the 2026 UDA Large Varsity Division Jazz and 2026 UDA Large Varsity Division Hip Hop National Championship titles. The Coral Reef Senior High School dance program is led by Activities Director and Magnet Dance Director Rebecca Santalo, the 2024 National High School Dance Coach of the Year, who opened the Coral Reef Magnet Dance program in 1997 and founded the Cudettes in 1998, alongside Choreographer, former team member, Assistant Coach, and full-time Fine Arts Dance Director Danielle Solano.

The International Cheer Union (ICU) is the official world governing body for cheerleading and performance cheer, representing 126 national federations and more than 10 million athletes worldwide. Founded in 2004, the ICU hosts the annual World Championships in Orlando, Florida, organizes the Cheerleading World Championships, and establishes international rules and standards. The ICU has been fully recognized by the International Olympic Committee (IOC) since 2021 as the global authority for the sport.

The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, recognizes and celebrates the Southwood Middle School Superstars and the Coral Reef Senior High School Varsity Cudettes, as well as their coaches, directors, and dancers, for their historic world and national championship achievements at the ICU World Championships and UDA National Dance Team Championships.

**ACTION PROPOSED BY
LUISA SANTOS:**

That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, approve Resolution No. 26-044 of The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, recognizing the Southwood Middle School Superstars and Coral Reef Senior High School Varsity Cudettes dance teams.

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RESOLUTION NO. 26-044
OF THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA, RECOGNIZING THE SOUTHWOOD
MIDDLE SCHOOL SUPERSTARS AND CORAL REEF SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL VARSITY CUDETTE
DANCE TEAMS

WHEREAS, our Miami-Dade County Public Schools (M-DCPS) students continue to distinguish themselves on the national and international stage, demonstrating that talent, discipline, hard work, and dedication can lead to extraordinary achievement. The recent historic accomplishments by the Southwood Middle School Superstars Dance Team and the Coral Reef Senior High School Varsity Cudettes exemplify the excellence of our students and their coaches and directors; and

WHEREAS, the Southwood Middle School Superstars Dance Team made history as the first M-DCPS middle school to compete at the ICU World Championships, winning the USA Youth Hip Hop Team World Championship, along with the 2026 Junior High Jazz and 2026 Junior Hip Hop National Championship titles, and receiving the Choreography Award for a jazz piece among Elementary, Junior High, and Junior Varsity High School teams. The Southwood Middle School dance program is led by Magnet Dance Director and Superstars Dance Team Director Hilda Jimenez, who has served as the dance director at Southwood for 33 years, alongside Assistant Coach Julianna Acosta and Technical Director Miranda Jimenez; and

WHEREAS, the Coral Reef Senior High School Varsity Cudettes reached unprecedented heights, becoming the first high school to win gold medals in both Junior Hip Hop and Premier Jazz at the ICU World Championships, representing Team USA. The Cudettes also secured the 2026 UDA Large Varsity Division Jazz and 2026 UDA Large Varsity Division Hip Hop National Championship titles. The Coral Reef Senior High School dance program is led by Activities Director and Magnet Dance Director Rebecca Santalo, the 2024 National High School Dance Coach of the Year, who opened the Coral Reef Magnet Dance program in 1997 and founded the Cudettes in 1998, alongside Choreographer, former team member, Assistant Coach, and full-time Fine Arts Dance Director Danielle Solano; and

WHEREAS, the International Cheer Union (ICU) is the official world governing body for cheerleading and performance cheer, representing 126 national federations and more than 10 million athletes worldwide. Founded in 2004, the ICU hosts the annual World Championships in Orlando, Florida, organizes the Cheerleading World Championships, and establishes international rules and standards. The ICU has been fully recognized by the International Olympic Committee (IOC) since 2021 as the global authority for the sport; and

WHEREAS, The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, recognizes and celebrates the Southwood Middle School Superstars and the Coral Reef Senior High School Varsity Cudettes, as well as their coaches, directors, and dancers, for their historic world and national championship achievements at the ICU World Championships and UDA National Dance Team Championships;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, approve Resolution No. 26-044 of The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, recognizing the Southwood Middle School Superstars and Coral Reef Senior High School Varsity Cudettes dance teams.

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

Presented this ninth day of September, A.D. 2026

THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA

SCHOOL BOARD CHAIR

ATTEST:

Secretary