RESOLUTION NO. 21-020
OF THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA, RECOGNIZING THE EDUCATION FUND FOR OVER THIRTY-FIVE YEARS OF OUTSTANDING COMMITMENT, GENEROUS DONATION, AND CONTINUED SUPPORT TO THE STUDENTS OF M-DCPS

WHEREAS, The Education Fund raises and invests funds in our schools, already totaling more than $64 million for our district's public schools, and distributes donated classroom and household supplies to teachers who shop for free at The Education Fund Ocean Bank Center for Educational Materials, already totaling more than $16.5 million in supplies benefitting 2.2+ million students; and

WHEREAS, The Education Fund's COVID-19 relief efforts, in just one year's time, includes the distribution of $3.7 million in donated supplies to 245,262 M-DCPS students, families, and teachers as part of an expanded 3-pronged effort including 1) Teacher Drive-Thru's, 2) Deliveries of supplies to schools, and 3) Partnerships with non-profits serving; and

WHEREAS, The Education Fund has partnered with M-DCPS Department of Food & Nutrition and Department of Science (a first-in-the-nation initiative to install Food Forests and edible gardens), Division of Academics (operating the *Idea EXPO –Teacher Conference)*, Department of Visual & Performing Arts (hosts art workshops for teachers and an annual student art exhibition & charity auction to encourage student artists), Department of Career & Technical Education (provides hundreds of students at 25+ middle and high schools each year with culinary career experiences at The Taste of Education), Department of Social Studies (supporting hands-on "action-civics" education), Division of Curriculum & Education Transformation (increased college enrollment by 34% as part of a national demonstration project to integrate college-prep and career readiness), Department of Instructional Technology (provided 10,000+ needy students and their families with refurbished desktop computers), and the Office of Professional Development (created, funded, and facilitated the Superintendent's Urban Principal Initiative (SUPI)); and

WHEREAS, The Education Fund established the district's first major one-on-one reading program using AmeriCorps volunteers, called *AmeriCorps Dade READS!,* annually providing more than 25,000 volunteer hours to help elementary school students, whose free/reduced lunch percentage averaged 98%, with outcomes showing 70%+ of students significantly improved their reading skills, and

WHEREAS, The Education Fund clearly demonstrates through its past work and its significant continuing efforts that it is an integral part of supporting and improving our public schools in Miami-Dade to ensure all children have an opportunity to reach their full potential and succeed.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, approve Resolution No. 21-020 of The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, recognizing the Education Fund for over thirty-five years of outstanding commitment, generous donation, and continued support to the students of Miami-Dade County Public Schools.

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

Presented this nineteenth day of May, A.D. 2021

THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA

_____
CHAIR

ATTEST:

_____
Secretary

Office of School Board Members May 6, 2021
School Board Meeting of May 19, 2021

Dr. Marta Pérez, School Board Member

SUBJECT: **REQUEST FOR APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION NO. 21-020 OF THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA, RECOGNIZING THE EDUCATION FUND FOR OVER THIRTY-FIVE YEARS OF OUTSTANDING COMMITMENT, GENEROUS DONATION, AND CONTINUED SUPPORT TO THE STUDENTS OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

COMMITTEE: **PERSONNEL, STUDENT, SCHOOL & COMMUNITY SUPPORT**

LINK TO STRATEGIC BLUEPRINT: **SAFE, HEALTHY AND SUPPORTIVE LEARNING ENVIRONMENT**

Thirty-five years ago, The Education Fund was established as an independent non-profit organization linking the business community and the School Board in Miami-Dade County, both of whom saw the need for an organization that could maneuver easily and work closely with teachers, administrators, and community and business leaders to undertake programs that improve public education and increase student achievement.

Beginning with a single program that awarded small grants to teachers, today The Education Fund operates up to a dozen programs that reach all 340,000+ students and 17,000+ teachers in 476+ schools in Miami-Dade County. Through their efforts, innovation, and investments, The Education Fund implements programs and policies that result in sustainable improvements in our classrooms, schools, and district and engages the entire community in making educational excellence a top priority, ensuring that every child learns and succeeds in Miami-Dade County Public Schools.

The Education Fund raises and invests funds in our schools, already totaling more than $64 million for our district's public schools, and distributes donated classroom and household supplies to teachers who shop for free at The Education Fund Ocean Bank Center for Educational Materials, already totaling more than $16.5 million in supplies benefitting 2.2+ million students.

The Education Fund's COVID-19 relief efforts, in just one year's time, includes the distribution of $3.7 million in donated supplies to 245,262 M-DCPS students, their families, and their teachers as part of an expanded 3-pronged effort including 1) Teacher Drive-Thru's, 2) Deliveries of entire truckloads of supplies to schools, and 3) Partnerships with non-profits serving M-DCPS students, and The Education Fund is pioneering, together with M-DCPS Department of Food & Nutrition and M-DCPS Department of Science, a first-in-the-nation initiative to install Food Forests and edible gardens promoting healthy eating habits, addressing childhood obesity, improving science achievement and nutrition literacy of 30,000+ students annually in 51 Miami-Dade County elementary schools and, to date, sending home 200,000+ harvest bags filled with fresh produce; with results showing 79% of students raise their science scores and 50% improve their eating attitudes and habits.

The Education Fund funds individual classroom grants for teachers, to date providing more than 5,000 grants totaling more than $2.9 million; and The Education Fund, in partnership with M-DCPS Division of Academics, shares best curriculum practices by distributing the *Ideas with IMPACT* catalog annually to all 17,000+ district teachers, operating the *Idea EXPO – The Teacher Conference*, annually attended by hundreds of teachers on their day off; and supporting teachers via webinars, virtual happy hours, and emergency technology grants, with 3,500+ teachers registering during COVID-19 to learn virtual education techniques and more than 350 teachers receiving emergency tech grants.

The Education Fund, in partnership with M-DCPS Department of Visual & Performing Arts, hosts art workshops for teachers and an annual student art exhibition and charity auction to encourage student artists, already raising $1.1+ million to support district visual arts programs and recognizing 200,000+ students for their artwork, and The Education Fund coordinates an annual teaching-quality awareness campaign engaging business professionals from hundreds of local companies to teach for a day and to-date placed 2,633 professionals in Miami-Dade classrooms, raising more than half a million for classroom projects.

The Education Fund, in partnership with M-DCPS Department of Career & Technical Education, provides hundreds of students at 25+ middle and high schools each year with culinary career experiences including grants and career opportunities including at The Education Fund Taste of Education, where students meet with local celebrity chefs who judge their cuisine and give feedback and advice, and then learn additional skills as they serve and explain their dishes to 500+ members of the business community to compete for the People's Choice Award, and The Education Fund, in partnership with M-DCPS Department of Social Studies, is supporting hands-on "action-civics" education, teaching students to work the steps involved to affect public policy issues that matter to them and their communities; and

The Education Fund, in partnership with M-DCPS Division of Curriculum and Education Transformation, increased college enrollment by 34% as part of a national demonstration project to integrate college-prep and career readiness into M-DCPS high schools and continues this work in five M-DCPS with more than 8,000 students participating annually in College & Career Clubs, Counseling, FAFSA Workshops, Classroom Lessons, and College Field Trip, and in partnership with M-DCPS Department of Instructional Technology, provided 10,000+ needy students and their families with refurbished desktop computers for home use, provided teachers and parents with technical training, and diverted 210 tons of hardware from area landfills while creating a model for the district's first computer distribution program.

The Education Fund touched the lives of more than 180,000 at-risk students through a 20-year initiative funding more than 1,000 drop-out prevention curriculum projects, and in partnership with M-DCPS Office of Professional Development, created, funded, and facilitated the Superintendent's Urban Principal Initiative (SUPI) that exceeded the outcomes of all of the other nationally respected leadership-development programs in their evaluation cluster and produced dozens of graduates now serving in administrative positions in M-DCPS high-need schools, and created both the districts' first-ever parent resource centers and the district's first tri-lingual parent guides, distributed to more than 1.2 million families and creating models for the district.

The Education Fund implemented programming called Library Power to help improve elementary schools' use of their schools' media center, with the district using the model schools to train all elementary schools in the methodology, and established the district's first major one-on-one reading program using AmeriCorps volunteers, called *AmeriCorps Dade READS!,* annually providing more than 25,000 volunteer hours to help elementary school students, whose free/reduced lunch percentage averaged 98%, with outcomes showing 70%+ of students significantly improved their reading skills, which became part of an effort that paved the way for national programming in this arena.

The Education Fund clearly demonstrates through its past work and its significant continuing efforts that it is an integral part of supporting and improving our public schools in Miami-Dade to ensure all children have an opportunity to reach their full potential and succeed

This item has been reviewed and approved by the School Board Attorney as to form and legal sufficiency.

ACTION PROPOSED BY
DR. MARTA PÉREZ:

That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, approve Resolution No. 21-020 of The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, recognizing the Education Fund for over thirty-five years of outstanding commitment, generous donation, and continued support to the students of Miami-Dade County Public Schools.