

Dr. Martin Karp, Board Member

**SUBJECT:                   REQUEST FOR APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION NO. 12-155  
OF THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY,  
FLORIDA, HONORING THE LIFE OF SALVATORE ANTONIO  
VANNI AND PROMOTING CHILDHOOD CANCER  
AWARENESS AND EDUCATION**

**COMMITTEE:               INSTRUCTIONAL   EXCELLENCE    AND   COMMUNITY  
ENGAGEMENT**

**LINK TO STRATEGIC  
FRAMEWORK:             STUDENT, PARENT AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT**

According to the National Cancer Institute, approximately 12,400 children in the United States will be diagnosed with some form of cancer this year. About one in 300 boys and one in 333 girls will develop cancer before the age of 20. Neuroblastoma is a type of cancer that grows from the sympathetic nervous system mainly affecting young children. There are no hereditary or environmental factors that cause Neuroblastoma. It is the most common cancer in infants and the third most common cancer of young children. Neuroblastoma is the leading cause of cancer deaths in young children. There is no cure at the present time and its cause is still unknown. The prognosis of this disease depends on the age of the child and the stage of the disease at diagnosis. Unfortunately, most children are already at Stage IV by the time they are diagnosed. Infants under the age of one have a much higher rate of survival than older children. The five year survival rate of a child with Stage IV Neuroblastoma is about 20%.

Salvatore Adrian Vanni, April 22, 2003 – March 19, 2011, was diagnosed with Neuroblastoma at the age of four. After three and one half years of a very long and tortuous treatment to fight this disease, Sal died one month shy of his eighth birthday. To honor the life of Sal, and the courageous and unselfish efforts of the Vanni family and the Mystic Force Foundation, Miami-Dade County Public Schools (M-DCPS) will include childhood cancers as an integral component of the M-DCPS Health Education Curriculum along with other cancers. Childhood cancer instructional materials will be presented to elementary and secondary school teachers through professional development, and lesson plan ideas and fact sheets will be posted on the Physical Education and Health Literacy website at <http://pe.dadeschools.net>.

**ACTION PROPOSED BY  
DR. MARTIN KARP:**

That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, approve Resolution No. 12-155 of The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, honoring the life of Salvatore Antonio Vanni and promoting childhood cancer awareness and education.

**Replacement  
H-23**

**RESOLUTION NO. 12-155  
OF THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA,  
HONORING THE LIFE OF SALVATORE ANTONIO VANNI AND PROMOTING CHILDHOOD  
CANCER AWARENESS AND EDUCATION**

**WHEREAS**, M-DCPS recognizes the devastating impact of Childhood Cancers on families; and

**WHEREAS**, each year approximately 10,400 children under the age of 15 are diagnosed with cancer and about 1,545 children will die from the disease; and

**WHEREAS**, approximately 650 children will be diagnosed with Neuroblastoma, the third most common type of pediatric cancer; and

**WHEREAS**, in the majority of cases (73%), Neuroblastoma has already spread to areas outside of the original site at the time of diagnosis; and

**WHEREAS**, children diagnosed at Stage IV have less than a 30% chance of survival; and

**WHEREAS**, Salvatore Antonio Vanni, in his short life, was diagnosed with Neuroblastoma cancer and underwent 12 surgeries, 55 cycles of chemotherapy, 50 rounds of radiation, endless amounts of blood tests, bone marrow biopsies, nuclear scans and blood and platelet transfusions; and

**WHEREAS**, Salvatore Antonio Vanni spent more than 440 days of his short life in the hospital over three and one half years in five different states; and

**WHEREAS**, Salvatore and his family epitomized the bond of family love in support of Sal's treatment; and

**WHEREAS**, we recognize the Mystic Force Foundation for their unselfish efforts to support research to find a cure, since the five year survival rate for all childhood cancers has climbed from less than 50 percent to over 80 percent over the past several decades thanks to ongoing advances in research and treatment.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT:**

The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, approve Resolution No. 12-155 of The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, recognizing the life of Salvatore Antonio Vanni and the contribution of the Vanni Family and the Mystic Force Foundation.

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

**Presented this tenth day of October A.D. 2012**

THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA

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CHAIR

ATTEST:

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Secretary