

Dr. Martin Karp, Board Member

SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION NO. 09-36 OF THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA, RECOGNIZING SPECIAL OLYMPICS MIAMI-DADE COUNTY AND ITS SPONSORS, COACHES, PARTICIPANTS AND THEIR TEACHERS AND PARENTS

COMMITTEE: INSTRUCTIONAL EXCELLENCE & COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

LINK TO DISTRICT STRATEGIC PLAN: ENGAGE STAKEHOLDERS ON DISTRICT INITIATIVES AND ACTIVITIES

Special Olympics Miami-Dade County provides students throughout Miami-Dade County with an opportunity to train, prepare, and compete year-round in a variety of athletic events. Special Olympics sports training and competition programs are available at no cost to all Miami-Dade County persons 8 years of age and older with intellectual disabilities.

Special Olympics Miami-Dade County, a non profit organization established in 1991 for children and adults in our community, now has over 3,000 participants in thirteen different sports including aquatics, cycling and power lifting. Athletes have the opportunity to participate in 8 weeks of training prior to competition dates.

The Special Olympics Athlete Oath is: "Let me win. But if I cannot win, let me brave in the attempt." On February 22, 2009, 271 students from 19 public schools participated in track and field events and in other sports with 65 students emerging as 1st Place winning athletes.

This year, with partner support from the North Miami Beach Optimist Club, Special Olympics staff and volunteers performed a remarkable feat in moving the event to the new site, Nathaniel Traz Powell Stadium at Miami-Dade College North Campus in one month's time. The venue had to be changed because of construction at the previous location.

In addition to the athletes, the Track and Field event features volunteers also known as "Buddies" who are assigned to athletes to accompany them throughout the day. They ensure that participants get to their events on time and cheer them on to the finish line. Additional volunteers distribute awards, serve food and run carnival-style games at the Olympic Village with a series of booths.

Nearly 400 athletes participated in events such as wheelchair racing, shot put and long jump. Those who won their event qualify to compete in the statewide Special Olympics Summer Games in May at Disney's Wide World of Sports in Kissimmee.

Students who volunteer at Special Olympics events may receive community service hours for their work at the event.

Sponsors included Optimist Club of North Miami Beach and David L. Singer Memorial Foundation.

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

That The School Board of Miami-Dade County Florida approve Resolution No. 09-36 recognizing Special Olympics Miami-Dade County and its Sponsors, Coaches, Participants and their Teachers and Parents

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**RESOLUTION NO. 09-36
OF THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA,
RECOGNIZING SPECIAL OLYMPICS MIAMI-DADE COUNTY AND ITS SPONSORS,
COACHES, PARTICIPANTS AND THEIR TEACHERS AND PARENTS**

WHEREAS, Special Olympics Miami-Dade County, a non-profit organization established in 1991 for children and adults in our community, provides students with an opportunity to train, prepare and compete year-round in a variety of athletic events; and

WHEREAS, the organization's sports training and competition programs are available at no cost to persons eight years and older with intellectual disabilities; and

WHEREAS, the Special Olympics Athlete Oath is "Let me win. But if I cannot win, let me brave in the attempt"; and

WHEREAS, on February 22, 2009, 271 students from 19 public schools participated in track and field events and other sports at the Special Olympics Miami-Dade Summer Games; and

WHEREAS, with the support of their partners and sponsors, including the North Miami Beach Optimist Club and the David L. Singer Memorial Foundation, Special Olympics staff and volunteers were able to relocate the event in record time due to a change of venue;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, approve Resolution No. 09-36 of The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, recognizing Special Olympics Miami-Dade County and its sponsors, coaches, participants and their teachers and parents.

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

Presented this twenty-fifth day of March, A.D. 2009

THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA

CHAIR

ATTEST:

Secretary