

Dr. Marta Pérez, Board Member

SUBJECT: REQUEST APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION NO. 14-019 OF THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA, HONORING MR. SHAWN BEIGHTOL OF JOHN A. FERGUSON SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL

COMMITTEE: INSTRUCTIONAL EXCELLENCE AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

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

Every year the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) receives thousands of suggestions and ideas for apps related to physics and aeronautics. Only the very best are selected to be featured on their website. One of these extraordinary ideas originated in one of our schools and was created by one of our teachers, Mr. Shawn Beightol.

"Got Rocket" is an innovative space launch app/website developed by Mr. Beightol. It allows a person to view a designated rocket launch and find its location using a smart phone. The idea for the app came from students in Mr. Beightol's class. The website issues an electronic message with compass headings, such as North, South, East, and West. The smart phone's clinometer, an app which can provide measurement, visualization and analysis, can then be used to measure the altitude of the rocket in degrees above the horizon. It reruns the app and calculates the altitude of the rocket above the surface of the earth!

The app is listed by NASA/Smithsonian at:
<http://labs.adsabs.harvard.edu/adsabs/abs/2013PhTea..51..510B/>. It may be viewed at
<http://www.tinyurl.com/gotrocket>.

Mr. Beightol continues to challenge his students in his Chemistry classes at Ferguson. This past semester they built cell-phone based spectrometers for the classic chemistry experiment of burning salts to give off light. The homemade spectrometers split the light into the individual bands of colored lights which can be used like fingerprints to identify unknown mixtures. This may be a first for high school students - using their own cellphones, they reported the detection of the infrared "Paschen" series for hydrogen. This series of hydrogen is currently being written about in a scientific journal!

Mr. Beightol became a teacher with Miami-Dade County Public Schools in 1993. He has received numerous awards and recognitions. He has also taught at Florida International University and authored classroom materials currently in use at district schools.

Miami-Dade County Public Schools is fortunate to have teachers like Mr. Beightol who foster a love of learning and inspire their students to achieve.

**ACTION PROPOSED BY
DR. MARTA PÉREZ:**

That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, approve Resolution No. 14-019 of The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, honoring Mr. Shawn Beightol.

**RESOLUTION NO. 14-019
OF THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA,
HONORING MR. SHAWN BEIGHTOL OF JOHN A. FERGUSON SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL**

WHEREAS, every year the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) receives thousands of suggestions and ideas for apps related to physics and aeronautics. Only the very best are selected to be featured on their website; and

WHEREAS, one of these extraordinary ideas originated in one of our schools and was created by one of our teachers, Shawn Beightol from John A. Ferguson Senior High School; and

WHEREAS, "Got Rocket" is an innovative space launch app/website developed by Mr. Beightol that allows a person to view a designated rocket launch and find its location using a smart phone. The idea for the app came from students in Mr. Beightol's class; and

WHEREAS, the website issues an electronic message with compass headings, such as North, South, East, and West. The smart phone's clinometer, an app that can provide measurement, visualization and analysis can then be used to measure the altitude of the rocket in degrees above the horizon. It reruns the app and calculates the altitude of the rocket above the surface of the earth; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Beightol began his career as a teacher with Miami-Dade County Public Schools in 1993. He has received numerous awards and recognitions. He has also taught at Florida International University and authored classroom materials currently in use at district schools; and

WHEREAS, Miami-Dade County Public Schools is fortunate to have teachers like Mr. Beightol who foster a love of learning and inspire their students to achieve;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, approve Resolution No. 14-019 of The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, honoring Mr. Shawn Beightol of John A. Ferguson Senior High School.

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

Presented this twelfth day of February A.D. 2014

THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA

CHAIR

ATTEST:

Secretary

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