

Dr. Marta Pérez, Member

**SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION NO. 08-17 OF THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA, HONORING JULIET CASANOVA-PEREZ**

**COMMITTEE: INSTRUCTIONAL EXCELLENCE AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT**

**LINK TO DISTRICT STRATEGIC PLAN: RECRUIT, DEVELOP AN RETAIN HIGH-PERFORMING, DIVERSE, AND MOTIVATED FACULTY AND STAFF**

We have all heard the popular phrase “To teach is to touch a life forever,” and most of us can think fondly of a teacher who left a lasting impression on us by encouraging us to achieve our potential, inspiring us to reach out for greater things, or expressing care and concern during a difficult time.

Juliet Casanova-Perez is that special breed of teacher who has touched the life of one of her students in a unique way: she may have saved her life.

Early in the current school year, Ms. Casanova observed troubling signs in Sophie Howell, one of her Kindergarten students at David Fairchild Elementary. Further observation convinced her that there was cause for concern, which she shared with Sophie’s parents, Mark and Betty Howell. The medical test results confirmed every parent’s worst nightmare, a golf-ball size tumor at the base of Sophie’s brain, which required immediate surgical intervention.

Two surgeries and several hospital stays later, Sophie is back at school eager to learn and keep up with her classmates, under the loving and watchful eye of her beloved teacher, Juliet Casanova-Perez. Miami-Dade County Public Schools, along with the friends and family of Sophie Howell, owes her a debt of gratitude and proudly recognizes her on this day for the ultimate gift a teacher can give a child: the gift of life.

**ACTION PROPOSED BY**

**DR. MARTA PÉREZ:** That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, approve Resolution No. 08-17 of The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, honoring Juliet Casanova-Perez for her actions which may have saved the life of student Sophie Howell.

**RESOLUTION NO. 08-17  
OF THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA  
HONORING JULIET CASANOVA-PEREZ  
FOR HER ROLE IN SAVING THE LIFE OF SOPHIE HOWELL**

**WHEREAS**, Ms. Juliet Casanova-Perez is a kindergarten teacher at David Fairchild Elementary School, honored as the school's Teacher of the Year in 2003; and

**WHEREAS**, last fall, Ms. Casanova-Perez noticed subtle but disturbing signs in one of her young students, Sophie Howell;

**WHEREAS**, Ms. Casanova-Perez alerted Sophie's parents about her concerns, urging them to seek medical advice; and

**WHEREAS**, as a result of Ms. Casanova-Perez's actions, Sophie received emergency surgery that may have saved her life; and

**WHEREAS**, by all accounts, the love and attention she gave to Sophie typifies Ms. Casanova-Perez's devotion to *all* her students; and

**WHEREAS**, it takes commitment and compassion to meet every student's needs, and Ms. Juliet Casanova-Perez has what it takes, imbuing the Miami-Dade County Public Schools slogan, *giving our students the world*, with added and literal meaning; and

**WHEREAS**, through her devotion to her students, Ms. Juliet Casanova-Perez has affected eternity, inspiring teachers everywhere by her example;

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

The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, approve resolution No. 08-17 of The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, honoring Juliet Casanova-Perez for her role in saving the life of Sophie Howell.

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

Presented this 13<sup>th</sup> day of February, A.D. 2008

THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA

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CHAIR

ATTEST:

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SECRETARY