

October 15, 2002

Dr. Robert B. Ingram, Member

SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION NO. 02-39 OF THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA, TO IMMEDIATELY BAN THE SALE OF CHOCOLATE PRODUCTS THAT DO NOT CARRY A "CHILD-FRIENDLY" CHOCOLATE LABEL TO HELP ENSURE THAT OUR CHILDREN ARE NOT PAYING TO SUPPORT THE ENSLAVEMENT OF OTHER CHILDREN

An investigation by Knight Ridder Newspapers found that African boys as young as 11 are often sold or tricked into slavery to harvest beans on thousands of cocoa farms in West Africa's Ivory Coast. Following this finding, it is encouraged that candy bars and other chocolate products carry labels assuring consumers that no slave labor was involved in harvesting the cocoa beans used in the products.

By immediately banning the sale of chocolate products in Miami-Dade County Public Schools that do not carry a "child-friendly" chocolate label, the Board can help ensure our students do not contribute to the enslavement of other children. It also can make its voice heard about the atrocity of slave labor anywhere in the world.

**ACTION PROPOSED BY
DR. ROBERT B. INGRAM:**

That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, approve Resolution No. 02-39 of The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, to immediately ban in Miami Dade County Public Schools the sale of chocolate products that do not carry a "child-friendly" chocolate label to help ensure that our students are not paying to support the enslavement of other children.

RBI:jps

**RESOLUTION NO. 02-39 OF THE
SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA,
TO IMMEDIATELY BAN IN MIAMI-DADE COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS THE SALE
OF CHOCOLATE PRODUCTS THAT DO NOT CARRY A "CHILD-FRIENDLY"
CHOCOLATE LABEL TO HELP ENSURE THAT OUR
STUDENTS ARE NOT PAYING TO SUPPORT THE ENSLAVEMENT OF OTHER
CHILDREN.**

WHEREAS, African boys are sold or tricked into slavery to harvest cocoa beans in Ivory Coast, West Africa; and

WHEREAS, it is estimated that some 15,000 child slaves toil on cocoa, cotton and coffee farms in Ivory Coast, West Africa; and

WHEREAS, it is encouraged that candy bars and other chocolate products must carry labels assuring consumers that no slave labor was involved in harvesting the cocoa beans used in the products; and

WHEREAS, an immediate ban in Miami-Dade County Public Schools of the sale of chocolate products that do not carry a "child-friendly" chocolate label would be in the best interest of our children and would help ensure our students are not paying to support the enslavement of other children; and

WHEREAS, Miami-Dade County Public Schools affirms the significance and importance of this ban and proposed legislation;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, approve Resolution No. 02-39 of The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, to immediately ban in Miami-Dade County Public Schools the sale of chocolate products that do not carry a "child-friendly" chocolate label to help ensure that our students are not paying to support the enslavement of other children.

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

Presented this twenty-third day of October, A.D. 2002

THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA

CHAIR

ATTEST:

Secretary