

Dr. Lawrence S. Feldman, Board Member

**SUBJECT: ENDORSEMENT OF DECEMBER 15, 2018 AS BILL OF RIGHTS DAY**

**COMMITTEE: ACADEMICS, INNOVATION, EVALUATION & TECHNOLOGY**

**LINK TO STRATEGIC BLUEPRINT: SAFE, HEALTHY AND SUPPORTIVE LEARNING ENVIRONMENT**

On December 15, 1791, the first 10 amendments to the Constitution, later known as the Bill of Rights, were ratified. The Bill of Rights protects our fundamental rights, guaranteeing freedom of speech, protest, and conscience. Alongside the Constitution and Declaration of Independence, this document constitutes the charter of our form of government and stands as a testament to our country's ideals and beliefs.

In 1941, President Franklin D. Roosevelt issued the first proclamation dedicating December 15 as Bill of Rights Day, referring to the document as "the great American charter of personal liberty and human dignity." This year we celebrate the 227<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Bill of Rights.

The National Education Project, Inc. (NEP), a non-profit, non-partisan organization based in Washington D.C. is committed to creating a renewed and vibrant awareness of The Constitution of the United States and the Bill of Rights in the lives of Americans across the country. NEP supplies free copies of the Bill of Rights to students and has offered to provide selected classrooms throughout the nation with such to commemorate the birthday of the document. NEP Executive Director Norman Manasa, who formerly served as aide to Chief Justice Warren E. Burger, is committed to expanding participation by school-aged children and has organized Bill of Rights birthday celebrations in Washington, D.C.; Cleveland, Ohio; Oklahoma City, Oklahoma; and Miami Beach, Florida. This year, several Homestead-area schools will be participating.

This item seeks to endorse December 15, 2018 as Bill of Rights Day in Miami-Dade County Public Schools.

This item has been reviewed and approved by the School Board Attorney's office as to form and legal sufficiency.

**ACTION PROPOSED BY**

**DR. LAWRENCE S. FELDMAN:** That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, endorse December 15, 2018 as Bill of Rights Day in Miami-Dade County Public Schools.