

NEWS

AS PROPOSED BY BOARD MEMBER PERLA TABARES HANTMAN, SCHOOL BOARD RECOGNIZES THE CITY OF HIALEAH, THE FLORIDA MARLINS, MAJOR LEAGUE BASEBALL; SUPPORTS A PROPOSED 'MAJOR LEAGUE BASEBALL URBAN YOUTH BASEBALL ACADEMY'

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NEWS RELEASE FROM PERLA TABARES HANTMAN

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As proposed by School Board Member Perla Tabares Hantman, District 4, the Miami-Dade School Board unanimously voted to recognize the City of Hialeah, the Florida Marlins, and Major League Baseball (MLB) for agreeing to build an Urban Youth Baseball Academy in Hialeah.

"Many studies have shown that academics combined with athletics have a positive impact on children's health and cognitive development," Ms. Hantman said. "This academy will create a diversified program that will provide many educational opportunities for students in addition to a sports emphasis."

The new \$3.2 million MLB Urban Youth Baseball Academy is scheduled to be built as a component of the proposed Florida Marlins stadium project. The state-of-the-art facility is expected to break ground later this year and will provide free baseball and softball instruction for South Florida students from ages 7-18. The complex will consist of a show field complete with a scoreboard; seating for 700, with additional space for 1,800 fans; dugouts and lights; and several additional fields and batting cages.

Students attending the MLB Urban Youth Baseball Academy will have the opportunity to participate in free seminars on such subjects as athletic sports training, public relations and statistics, sports and broadcast journalism, scouting and player development, athletic field management, and umpiring. The facility will operate year round and is expected to provide services to 2,500 students in its first year of operation. Staff members at the academy will include former major and minor league baseball players.

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