



*The School Board of Broward County, Florida*

# RESOLUTION

No. 10-44

## **Resolution in Support of "Spinal Cord Injury Awareness Week"**

**WHEREAS**, the spinal cord is considered the "information superhighway" of the body because it contains bundles of neurons that carry signals to and from the brain, controlling many bodily functions and

**WHEREAS**, after a spinal cord injury occurs, damaged neurons can no longer emit signals to or from the brain, and the injured person suffers permanent sensory loss and muscle control, and

**WHEREAS**, currently there are approximately 250,000 to 400,000 individuals in the United States who have sustained a spinal cord injury, and

**WHEREAS**, it is estimated that the annual incidence of spinal cord injury in the United States, not including those who die at the scene of an accident, is approximately 11,000 new cases each year, and

**WHEREAS**, the leading causes of spinal cord injury for both men and women are auto accidents, falls, gunshot wounds, and recreational sporting activities, and

**WHEREAS**, the average annual cost of care for individuals who have a spinal cord injury ranges from \$250,000 to \$700,000 the first year after injury, with an estimated lifetime cost ranging between \$500,000 and \$3 million depending on the severity of injury, and

**WHEREAS**, in the past 15 years, scientists have made major breakthroughs in understanding how to encourage damaged neurons to regenerate and restore function and how to improve the quality of life for patients in areas such as infertility and pain management, and

**WHEREAS**, the Darrell Gwynn Foundation has worked to help fund research aimed at finding a cure for paralysis, as well as improving the overall quality of life for individuals with paralysis, and

**WHEREAS**, the Darrell Gwynn Foundation will spend the week of November 16-22 working with local governments and schools to educate Floridians about the causes and treatments for spinal cord injuries, as well as informing residents on how to prevent these injuries from taking place,

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, The School Board of Broward County, Florida, acknowledges that the week of November 16-22, 2009 is recognized as

### **"Spinal Cord Injury Awareness Week"**

and urges all schools and departments to join in this recognition.

Given at Fort Lauderdale, Florida, this 10th day of November 2009.

**SCHOOL BOARD OF BROWARD COUNTY, FLORIDA**

BY: \_\_\_\_\_  
Maureen S. Dinnen, Chair

ATTEST: \_\_\_\_\_  
James F. Notter, Superintendent of Schools