

Office of the Superintendent of Schools  
MONTGOMERY COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
Rockville, Maryland

January 11, 2011

MEMORANDUM

To: Members of the Board of Education

From: Jerry D. Weast, Superintendent of Schools

Subject: African American History Month—February 2011

WHEREAS, The history of African Americans has played an integral role in the unfolding story of America; and

WHEREAS, Great African American intellectuals such as Phillis Wheatley, poet; W.E.B. DuBois, educator; Dorothy Height, social activist; Barack Obama, president of the United States, and many others, have greatly enriched our shared society and are examples of the power of education and reason; and

WHEREAS, African Americans still face significant challenges to be assured equal access to quality education, and continue to battle institutional racism; a quality education remains the greatest tool through which our society will build a stronger more perfect union, maximizing and honoring the skills and contributions of all; and

WHEREAS, Third grade students in Montgomery County Public Schools represent the value of a high quality learning experience as 78.5 percent of African American students have earned a Proficient or Advanced score on the Maryland School Assessment in mathematics in 2010, a 22.7 percentage point increase since 2003—nearly twice the rate of improvement of all third grade students; and

WHEREAS, In 2010, 44.2 percent of eligible African American students in Montgomery County Public Schools participated in Advance Placement courses—nearly twice the national rate of 25.6 percent—and succeeded on Advanced Placement examinations at rates exceeding national rates for students of all races; and

WHEREAS, The combined SAT score for African American graduates of Montgomery County Public Schools in 2010 was 1405, a 45-point increase since 2006, now therefore be it

Resolved, That the Montgomery County Board of Education and the superintendent of schools hereby declare the month of February 2011 to be “African American History Month”; and be it further

Resolved, That the Montgomery County Board of Education and the superintendent of schools encourage the staff, students, parents, and community to actively honor the contributions of African Americans in Montgomery County, the state, and the nation, and enhance the awareness of the impact of attitudes and expectations on the achievement of African American students.

JDW:ldd