

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

January 8, 2013

MEMORANDUM

To: Members of the Board of Education

From: Joshua P. Starr, Superintendent of Schools

Subject: African American History Month—February 2013

WHEREAS, The theme for this year’s African American History Month, as noted by the Association for the Study of African-American Life and History is, “At the Crossroads of Freedom and Equality: The Emancipation Proclamation and the March on Washington,” to celebrate their respective 150 and 50 year anniversaries; and

WHEREAS, African Americans have had to overcome misperceptions, myths, and stereotypes to prove their capabilities, including General Daniel “Chappie” James, Jr., who won his wings as a Tuskegee Airman in 1943 and became an outstanding fighter pilot; Marcus Garvey, recognized as a leader on instilling “Black Pride” within the African American community; Langston Hughes, Harlem Renaissance poet who recounted the plight of African Americans as well as having shared aspects of their rich culture; Grace Bumbry, African American opera singer; and Toni Morrison, gifted writer and winner of the Nobel Prize for literature; and

WHEREAS, In 2011, the percentage of AP exams taken by Montgomery County Public Schools’ African American students that earned scores of 3 or higher was 46 percent, significantly higher than the percentage for African American public school students in Maryland (28 percent) and the nation (26 percent); and

WHEREAS, A quality education has to begin with instructors who see potential rather than deficits; our society must reinvest in providing an education that allows every child the ability to optimize his/her skills in order to contribute to our society; now therefore be it

Resolved, That the Montgomery County Board of Education and the superintendent of schools hereby declare the month of February 2013 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.

JPS:ldd