



**BOARD OF EDUCATION OF HOWARD COUNTY
MEETING AGENDA ITEM**

TITLE: Resolution Recognizing Black Lives Matter at School
Week of Action **DATE:** January 24, 2019

PRESENTER(S): Kathleen Hanks, Administrator, Board of Education of Howard County

Strategic Call to Action Alignment:

Four Overarching Commitments – Connect: Students and staff thrive in a safe, nurturing and inclusive culture that embraces diversity.

OVERVIEW:

The Board wishes to recognize Black Lives Matter at School Week of Action, which is February 4 through February 8, 2019. This is a week intended to highlight, uplift and affirm the rich history and contributions of the Black community.

RECOMMENDATION/~~FUTURE DIRECTION:~~

Approve the attached Resolution recognizing Black Lives Matter at School Week of Action.

SUBMITTED BY: Kathleen Hanks
Administrator
Board of Education
of Howard County

APPROVAL/CONCURRENCE: Michael J. Martirano, Ed.D.
Superintendent

Karalee Turner-Little
Deputy Superintendent



BOARD OF EDUCATION OF HOWARD COUNTY

RESOLUTION

RECOGNIZING

BLACK LIVES MATTER AT SCHOOL WEEK OF ACTION

WHEREAS, a national movement of teachers, parents, administrators, and scholars have come together to proclaim an annual week of action, affirmation, and solidarity, to be called “Black Lives Matter at School Week of Action;” and

WHEREAS, the annual Black Lives Matter at School Week of Action will take place during the month of February to coincide with, and augment, Black History Month; the 2019 week of action is February 4–8; and

WHEREAS, schools should be places for the practice of equity, for the building of understanding, and for the active engagement of all in creating pathways to freedom and justice for all people; and

WHEREAS, the Black Lives Matter at School Week of Action is intended to highlight, uplift and affirm the rich history and contributions of the Black community and to cultivate in Black students a sense of pride, self-worth, and self-love; and

WHEREAS, Black Lives Matter at School Week of Action is further intended to encourage ongoing critical reflection and courageous conversations concerning systemic racism, social injustice, racial and ethnic bias; and to affirm the right of Black students to be treated with respect and dignity within schools and communities; and

WHEREAS, the Black Lives Matter at School Week of Action may offer a variety of educational opportunities, such as workshops, panel discussions, cultural events, instructional activities, and expressions of unity; and

WHEREAS, the National Education Association endorsed the Black Lives Matter at School Week of Action at the 2018 Representative Assembly; and

WHEREAS, the Maryland State Educators Association (MSEA) endorsed the Black Lives Matter at School Week of Action at the 2018 Representative Assembly.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Howard County Board of Education welcomes the participation of educators, staff, and students in community-based activities and events related to the Black Lives Matter at School Week of Action; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Howard County Board of Education invites educators across grade levels and content areas to use resources that are inclusive of all of our diverse learners to enrich instruction throughout the whole year, not just one week or one month.

Mavis Ellis, Chair
Board of Education of Howard County

Michael J. Martirano, Superintendent
Howard County Public School System

January 24, 2019