



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

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**TITLE:** Proclamation Honoring African American History Month      **DATE:** January 24, 2019

**PRESENTER(S):** Kevin Gilbert, Director of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

**Strategic Call to Action Alignment:**

Student-Centered Practices, Inclusive Relationships

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**OVERVIEW:**

In January 1986, the Howard County Public School System Board of Education approved the first proclamation that designated February as African American History Month. Staff is requesting that the attached, revised proclamation be approved for February 2019.

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**RECOMMENDATION/FUTURE DIRECTION:**

Approve the attached Proclamation designating February 2019 as African American History Month by the Board in order to assure staff awareness of the celebration.

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<b>SUBMITTED BY:</b> _____ Kevin F. Gilbert, Ed.D Director of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion	<b>APPROVAL/CONCURRENCE:</b> _____ Michael J. Martirano, Ed.D. Superintendent
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_____ Jahantab Siddiqui Chief Communication, Community/Workforce Engagement Officer	_____ Karalee Turner-Little Deputy Superintendent
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BOARD OF EDUCATION OF HOWARD COUNTY  
**PROCLAMATION**

DESIGNATING FEBRUARY 2019  
AS  
**AFRICAN AMERICAN HISTORY MONTH**

**WHEREAS**, the theme for National African American History Month 2019 is: “Black Migrations;” and

**WHEREAS**, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. is best known for his role in the advancement of civil rights using nonviolent civil disobedience; and

**WHEREAS**, the Board of Education of Howard County in 2012 issued a proclamation to repudiate the delay in the desegregation of Howard County Public School System, which was not fully achieved until 1965; and

**WHEREAS**, the Howard County Public School System is committed to providing every child, regardless of race, ethnicity, and social or economic demographic, with full access to educational opportunity; and

**WHEREAS**, the Howard County Public School System recognizes the importance of educating students about the struggles for equality that are part of America’s history so that this generation, and those that follow, do not take our hard-earned freedoms for granted; and

**WHEREAS**, the Board of Education of the Howard County Public School System is a proud member of the National School Boards Association Council of Urban Boards of Education, and actively supports its goals; and

**WHEREAS**, the Howard County Public School System partners with many civic and educational organizations to promote the academic achievement of students from pre-K through high school, including The Council of Elders of the Black Community of Howard County, the African American Community Roundtable, NAACP, Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., Continentals, Inc., Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc., Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc., Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc., and Links, Inc.;

**THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED** that the Board of Education hereby designates February 2019 as African American History Month in the Howard County Public School System; and

**BE IT FURTHER PROCLAIMED** that this document serves to reinforce our commitment to recognizing the significant contributions of African Americans and to ensure that all children see themselves in the Howard County Public School System’s curriculum.

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Mavis Ellis, Chair  
Board of Education of Howard County

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Michael J. Martirano, Superintendent  
Howard County Public School System

January 24, 2019