



Board of Education of Howard County
Meeting Agenda Item

Title: Resolution Recognizing Black Lives Matter at School: Week of Action **Date:** January 26, 2023

Presenter(s): Antonia Watts, Chair, 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 6 through February 10, 2023. This is a week intended to highlight, uplift and affirm the rich history and contributions of the Black community.

Recommendation:

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

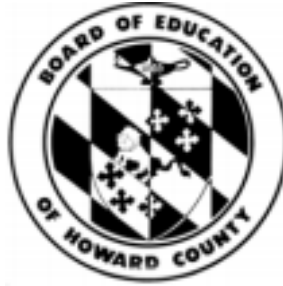
Submitted By: _____

Antonia Watts, Chair
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: YEAR OF PURPOSE AND WEEK OF ACTION

WHEREAS, a national movement of educators, parents, administrators, and scholars have come together to proclaim a “Black Lives Matter at School Year of Purpose” as well as a “Black Lives Matter at School Week of Action, Affirmation, and Solidarity”; and

WHEREAS, Black Lives Matter at School Week of Action will take place during the month of February to coincide with, and augment, African American History Month; the 2023 year of purpose is ongoing, and the week of action is February 6 through February 10, 2023; and

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

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

WHEREAS, the Black Lives Matter at School will offer a variety of educational opportunities, such as workshops, teach-ins and/or panel discussions, cultural events, instructional activities, and expressions of unity; 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; HCPSS has committed to implementing educational equity through passing policy 1080.

WHEREAS, the National Education Association, Maryland State Education Association, and the Howard County Education Association have all endorsed the Black Lives Matter Year of Purpose and Week of Action at School; and

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

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Howard County Board of Education invites staff across grade levels and content areas to use resources that are inclusive of all our diverse learners and in accordance with HCPSS Policy 8040 (Selection of Instructional Materials) to enrich instruction throughout the entire year; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Howard County Board of Education intends for meaningful activities to take place in classrooms and schools. The Board also encourages staff and students to utilize HCPSS resources, where applicable, for activities and events related to the Black Lives Matter at School.

Antonia Watts, Chair
Howard County Public School System

Michael J. Martirano, E.D., Superintendent
Howard County Public School System

January 26, 2023