

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

March 22, 2018

MEMORANDUM

To: Members of the Board of Education

From: Jack R. Smith, Superintendent of Schools

Subject: Arab American Heritage Month—April 2018

WHEREAS, Arab-Americans and Americans of Middle Eastern heritage have made valuable contributions to virtually every aspect of American society. They are United States military heroes, scientists, politicians, and entertainers; and

WHEREAS, The Arab World includes 22 countries stretching from North Africa in the west to the Arabian Gulf in the east. Arabs are ethnically, religiously, and politically diverse, but share a common linguistic and cultural heritage; and

WHEREAS, People of Middle Eastern descent first arrived in the United States in significant numbers during the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. According to the 2010 United States Census, approximately half of the country's Arab-Americans were born in the United States. An estimated four million Arab-Americans reside here today, with 85 percent attaining at least a high school diploma and many earning a bachelor's degree or higher; and

WHEREAS, The incredible contributions of Arab-Americans have helped us build a strong nation. Born to Arab immigrant parents in Washington, D.C., Diane Rehm, a self-made woman, is credited with setting a new tone for talk radio. For 27 years, she hosted one of the most refreshing talk radio programs in the United States; and

WHEREAS, We marvel at the outstanding achievements of Steve Jobs, innovative inventor, designer, entrepreneur and co-founder, chief executive, and chairman of Apple Inc. Apple's revolutionary products jumpstarted the evolution of modern technology; now therefore be it

Resolved, That the Montgomery County Board of Education and the superintendent of schools hereby declare the month of April 2018 to be "Arab-American Heritage Month" and encourage staff, students, parents/guardians, and the community, to actively honor the courage and contributions of Arab-Americans in Montgomery County, the state, and the nation, and enhance awareness of the impact of attitudes and expectations on the achievement of Arab-American students.

JRS:KAS:kvh