MEMORANDUM

To: Members of the Board of Education

From: Joshua P. Starr, Superintendent of Schools

Subject: National Disability Awareness Month—October 2014

WHEREAS, October is National Disability Awareness Month in the United States, honoring the many diverse contributions of America’s workers with disabilities; and

WHEREAS, Montgomery County Public Schools is committed to educating each individual student; we believe in academic achievement that is not predictable by race, ethnicity, or socioeconomic status; we set high expectations for all students and strive to eliminate all gaps; and we are focused on success beyond high school for every student; and

WHEREAS, Montgomery County Public Schools sets high standards and recruits the best and brightest professionals to ensure educator effectiveness that will lead to narrowing the achievement gap between students with disabilities and their nondisabled peers; and

WHEREAS, Montgomery County Public Schools promotes Professional Learning Communities committed to collaboration and focused on the principles of Universal Design for Learning to ensure the academic achievement of all students, including those with disabilities; and

WHEREAS, Montgomery County Public Schools, as part of National Disability Awareness Month, promotes inclusive practices supporting a diverse workforce that includes individuals with disabilities, who embody a dedicated, capable, and enthusiastic workforce pool; and

WHEREAS, Montgomery County Public Schools is committed to a seamless continuum of special education services for students with disabilities from birth through age 21 to prepare students, including students with the most significant cognitive disabilities, to be ready for college, career, and community opportunities; and
WHEREAS, Montgomery County Public Schools is dedicated to partnering with families to support student educational achievement and social and emotional wellness; and

WHEREAS, Montgomery County Public Schools is committed to enhancing students’ unique talents and abilities and empowering them to successfully meet the challenges of the future; now therefore be it

Resolved, That the Montgomery County Board of Education and the superintendent of schools declare the month of October as National Disability Awareness Month in Montgomery County Public Schools and encourage staff members in schools to sponsor activities in honor of its recognition.

JPS: MVN: sr