MEMORANDUM

To: Members of the Board of Education
From: Joshua P. Starr, Superintendent of Schools
Subject: Maryland Family Engagement Month—October 2014

WHEREAS, Years of research leaves no room for doubt: family engagement leads to improved student academic achievement and social and emotional well-being; and

WHEREAS, Our children are our most valuable resources and are the key to our future economic and social well-being; and

WHEREAS, All families have high hopes and dreams for their children’s future and look to the school system to lead the way when it comes to strengthening school-home partnerships focused on student learning and healthy development; and

WHEREAS, In the education of a child, family involvement promotes better attendance rates and increases motivation that results in higher grades and readiness for post-secondary education and careers; and

WHEREAS, Montgomery County Public Schools encourages parent and family involvement in the school community; and

WHEREAS, All school system staff members are available to assist families with information and support to ensure parents, guardians, and caregivers have the tools they need to engage fully in their children’s education; and

WHEREAS, When families and schools supported by the community in shared partnership work together, our children benefit and become lifelong learners and contribute positively to our society; and
WHEREAS, Montgomery County Public Schools provides opportunities for parents to engage with school system staff by attending Back-to-School nights, Open House visits, parent-teacher conferences, and additional school activities scheduled throughout the school year; and

WHEREAS, Parents may find answers to their questions by accessing the Montgomery County Public Schools website; attending Parent Academy workshops; participating in Montgomery County Council of Parent Teacher Associations, Inc. and National Association for the Advancement of Colored People Parents’ Council events; attending school system and community forum events such as the State of Schools presentation or a Montgomery County Board of Education meeting; and

WHEREAS, Montgomery County Public Schools also connects with parents and students through MCPS Quick Notes e-mail newsletters, Montgomery County Public Schools Instructional Television Channel 34, Twitter, and the Edline classroom-to-home communication tool in the secondary schools; and

WHEREAS, The importance of parent engagement in education requires not only recognition, but a firm commitment in our policies and actions; now therefore be it

Resolved. That the Montgomery County Board of Education and the superintendent of schools hereby declare the month of October 2014 to be Maryland Family Engagement Month, and encourage families, staff, and community members to recognize the importance of the home-school partnerships to improve student learning and school performance.

JPS: MVN: daf