

Dr. Dorothy Bendross-Mindingall, Board Member

SUBJECT: FEBRUARY 2019 AS NATIONAL BLACK HISTORY MONTH TO BE CELEBRATED IN ALL MIAMI-DADE COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

COMMITTEE: ACADEMICS, EVALUATION, AND TECHNOLOGY

LINK TO STRATEGIC BLUEPRINT: RELEVANT, RIGOROUS AND INNOVATIVE ACADEMICS

The celebration of Black History on a national level first began in February 1926 in large part to the efforts the great American historian Dr. Carter G. Woodson. His efforts led to the national observance of Black History Week. This week became the time when the many achievements and contributions by African Americans to this nation were celebrated. In 1976, as part of the nation's bicentennial celebration, Black History Week became Black History Month.

The Association for the Study of American Life and History (ASALH), which was founded by Dr. Woodson, for many years has helped to lead the annual national Black History Month celebration. Every year, Black History Month is given a national theme by the Association for the Study of American Life and History (ASALH).

This year's theme is "Black Migrations." The theme places emphasis on the movement of the people of African descent to new destinations and social realities. While inclusive of earlier centuries, this theme focuses especially on the twentieth century through today. Beginning in the early decades of the twentieth century, African American migration patterns included relocation from southern farms to southern cities; from the South to the Northeast, Midwest, and West; from the Caribbean to US cities as well as to migrant labor farms; and the emigration of noted African Americans to Africa and to European cities, such as Paris and London, after the end of World War I and World War II.

Such migrations resulted in a more diverse and stratified interracial and intra-racial urban population amid a changing social milieu, such as the rise of the Garvey movement in New York, Detroit, and New Orleans; the emergence of both black industrial workers and black entrepreneurs; the growing number and variety of urban churches and new religions; new music forms like ragtime, blues, and jazz; white backlash as in the Red Summer of 1919; the blossoming of visual and literary arts, as in New York, Washington, D.C., Chicago, and Paris in the 1910s and 1920s.

The theme *Black Migrations* equally lends itself to the exploration of the century's later decades from spatial and social perspectives, with attention to "new" African Americans because of the burgeoning African and Caribbean population in the US; Northern African Americans' return to the South; racial suburbanization; inner-city hyperghettoization; health and environment; civil rights and protest activism; electoral politics; mass incarceration; and dynamic cultural production.

**ACTION PROPOSED BY
DR. BENDROSS-MINDINGALL:**

That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, recognize February 2019 as National Black History Month and join in promoting National Black History Month in all Miami-Dade County Public Schools.