

Dr. Dorothy Bendross-Mindingall, Board Member

**SUBJECT: FEBRUARY 2021 AS NATIONAL BLACK HISTORY MONTH TO BE CELEBRATED IN ALL MIAMI-DADE COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

**COMMITTEE: ACADEMICS, INNOVATION, EVALUATION & 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 noted 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 theme is "Representation, Identity, and Diversity."

The black family has been a topic of study in many disciplines—history, literature, the visual arts and film studies, sociology, anthropology, and social policy. Its representation, identity, and diversity have been revered, stereotyped, and vilified from the days of slavery to our own time. The black family knows no single location, since family reunions and genetic-ancestry searches testify to the spread of family members across states, nations, and continents. Not only are individual black families diasporic, but Africa and the diaspora itself have been long portrayed as the black family at large.

While the role of the black family has been described by some as a microcosm of the entire race, its complexity as the "foundation" of African American life and history can be seen in numerous debates over how to represent its meaning and typicality from a historical perspective—as slave or free, as patriarchal or matriarchal/matrifocal, as single-headed or dual-headed household, as extended or nuclear, as fictive kin or blood lineage, as legal or common law, and as black or interracial, etc. Variation appears, as well, in discussions on the nature and impact of parenting, childhood, marriage, gender norms, sexuality, and incarceration. The family offers a rich tapestry of images for exploring the African American past and present.

Every United States President since 1976 has officially designated the month of February as Black History Month.

This item has been reviewed and approved by the School Board Attorney's office as to form and legal sufficiency.

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

That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, recognize February 2021 as National Black History Month and join in promoting National Black History Month in all Miami-Dade County Public Schools.