

WHEREAS, Autism, which is often called autism spectrum disorder in order to reflect the wide range of disabilities and the intensity of symptoms associated with it, is a pervasive developmental disorder that affects the social, learning and behavior skills of its sufferers; and

WHEREAS, Autism manifests itself uniquely in each child that it affects and is characterized by communication difficulties, social interaction problems, and the need for sameness or repetition in behavior; and

WHEREAS, Significant improvement is often possible if an individual with autism receives early diagnosis and treatment; and

WHEREAS, Autism is one of the fastest growing developmental disabilities with estimates that it affects 1 out of 110 children in the United States, and 1 in 94 individuals in the State of New Jersey; and

WHEREAS, Organizations such as Autism NJ, Autism Speaks, and the Washington Township School District have dedicated years of service in their ongoing efforts to advocate for the rights, humane treatment, and appropriate education of all persons with Autism; and

WHEREAS, Autism requires increased research and greater recognition and understanding to ensure that individuals with Autism living in Washington Township, Gloucester County, and all other Americans with Autism are accurately diagnosed and appropriately treated throughout their lives.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Washington Township Public Schools Board of Education does hereby proclaim the month of April 2017 as Autism Awareness Month, and April 2, 2017, as Autism Awareness Day in the Washington Township Schools.

Virginia A. Murphy, BOE President