

MCCPTA Committee Work Plan 2008-2009

Committee: DCC Committee

Chair: Sally Taber, DCC Coordinator

1. Committee members: Cluster coordinators from Blair, Einstein, Northwood, Kennedy and Wheaton clusters, which make up the Downcounty Consortium. These clusters span two quad cluster areas and have two community superintendents.

Current members: Blair cluster: Pete Lafen, Susan Fleck, Bladimir Duenas; Einstein: Kelly Giblin; Northwood: Jennifer Chambers, Mary Abe; Kennedy: Ricky Ford; Wheaton: Grace Barnes, Chris Zawlocki

2. List of other people (within MCPS, county government, etc.) that you routinely interact with. Community superintendents Heath Morrison and Frank Stetson, Jeannie Franklin and Karen Danco, Consortia office; Marty Creel, Director, Div. of Enriched and Innovative Instruction. In the past we have also met with BOE members, County Council members, and other MCPS staff when needed on various issues affecting the DCC schools.

3. Vision: *How does the work of your committee support the objects and mission of PTA and the focus of MCCPTA?*

This group coordinates the efforts of the PTAs in the Down County Consortium with special attention to the needs of the high school consortium programs and the vertical articulation process from middle school to high school. In the last 1 ½ years we have started to focus attention on middle school issues, including the Middle School Magnet Consortium, which is comprised of 3 DCC middle schools—Parkland, Loiederman, and Argyle, and the need for equitable programs in the other DCC middle schools.

4. Goals: *Give a summary statement of your committee's goals for this year. Consider how you will identify attainment.*

The DCC Committee will continue to work with the Consortium office staff on the high school choice issues and the transition from middle school to high school. At a July 10 meeting with 4 DCC high school PTA presidents, they requested that we refocus our efforts on obtaining comparable data on academic achievement levels in our high schools, and work on ways to address this issue, since that was one of the goals for the formation of the DCC.

In addition, we will continue to push for equitable programs in our middle schools, since many of them lose highly motivated students to the MSMC schools. MCPS is funding additional programs and resources in 4 middle schools in 2008-9: Sligo, Newport Mill, SSI, and E. Brooke Lee, and we will be monitoring the effectiveness of these programs on academic achievement.

The Committee may identify additional issues in their fall meetings.

5. Action Steps: *What does your committee plan to do to achieve these goals? Include plans for meetings, mailings, etc., interaction with other MCCPTA committees, MCPS staff you may work with and in what capacity, other county, state or federal agencies, organizations you may contact as part of your action plan.*

We usually meet several times a year and have an active email listserv among cluster coordinators. We will continue to work with and inform the MCCPTA VP of Educational Issues on activities. In the past, we have also met with BOE members and County Council members on high priority issues affecting DCC schools. We will also continue to work with our 2 community superintendents and their staffs, the Division of Consortia Choice and Application Program Services (i.e., the Consortia office), the Department of Enriched and Innovative Programs (Marty Creel), our high school and middle school principals, and the Academy Coordinators for the high school programs.

6. Expenses: none requested.