

MCCPTA Committee and Sub-Committee Chairpersons 2010-2011

STANDING COMMITTEES

Bylaws/Standing Rules	Andrea Bernardo	andreaqbernardo@comcast.net
Capital Improvement Program	Steve Augustino	sauggiedog@comcast.net
Curriculum/Education	Kathy Boehlert	skboehlert@msn.com
Curriculum/Education	Ted Willard	twillard@aaas.org
Grading & Reporting Sub-Comm	<i>OPEN</i>	
Technology Sub-Committee	<i>OPEN</i>	
Health/Safety	Donna Pfeiffer	donnapfeiffer@gmail.com
Health/Safety	Susan Burkinshaw	susan.burkinshaw@verizon.net
Membership	Janette Gilman	janettegilman@verizon.net
Community Outreach/Parent		
Involvement Sub-Committee	Elisia George	ekjgsha@gmail.com
Operating Budget	Pam Moomau	Pammoomau@gmail.com
School Support	Jeannie Dillingham	jeannie_616@msn.com
Downcounty Consortium Sub-Comm	Mary Abe	abe_mary@yahoo.com
Guidance & Counseling Sub-Comm	Jeannie Dillingham	jeannie_616@msn.com
High School Sub-Committee	Dave Lechner	dave@lechneronline.com
Middle School Sub-Committee	<i>OPEN</i>	
Student Service Learning Sub-Comm	Debra Lang	debolang@yahoo.com
Special Instruction	Joy Burdin	triplejand@yahoo.com
ESOL Sub-Committee	Joy Burdin	triplejand@yahoo.com
Gifted Child Sub-Committee	Michelle Gluck	michelle.gluck@usnh.edu
Special Education Sub-Committee	Jeanne Taylor	frtjmt@aol.com

ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEES

Cable TV	Suzanne Weiss	sjwassoc@att.net
Cultural Arts	Priscilla Peterson	prisfp@verizon.net
Finance - Point of Contact	Jaimie Jacobson	teamjake1@verizon.net
Legislative	Patrick Dunn	patrickdunn65@yahoo.com
Legislative	Charles Duffy	chduffy@msn.com
E-Lists/Spotlight	Debra Lang	listservsmod@mccpta.com
MCCPTA Office - Point of Contact	Kristin Tribble	tribble4@verizon.net
Nominating Committee		
Presidents/Principals Dinner	Dale Ryan	dalejryan@yahoo.com
Public Relations	Chris Kelly	christopher.kelly57@yahoo.com
Reflections	<i>OPEN</i>	
Special Events	<i>OPEN</i>	
Training Committee	DeBora King	dkndc@msn.com
Website Coordinator	Paul Morrison	wallyboy53@comcast.net

AD HOC COMMITTEES

Growth Projections	Merry Eisner	merry.eisner@gmail.com
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We are still in need of a chairperson for the Reflections Committee.

While this program will not be cancelled, it may be greatly scaled back if someone does not volunteer. Responsibilities include collecting entries, recruiting judges and setting up the judging process, organizing a recognition ceremony, and submitting winning entries to the state level. Please consider stepping up for this opportunity. Contact Kristin Tribble if interested.

Maryland Family Engagement Month

Maryland Governor Martin O'Malley along with the Montgomery County Board of Education declared the month of October to be Maryland Family Engagement Month. The Board passed a resolution encouraging families, staff, and community members to recognize the importance of parent involvement in improving student achievement and school performance.

Research shows that when parents are involved in their children's education, students have better attendance rates, increased motivation, higher grades, and a greater chance of attending college.

Other Monthly Themes to "engage" parents:

October – Disabilities Awareness Month

November – American Indian Heritage Month

February – African-American History Month

March – Read Across America Month; Music in Our Schools Month; Women's History Month; Deaf Awareness Month

April – Arab-American Heritage Month

Environmental Awareness Month; National Poetry Month; Jazz Appreciation Month

May – Asian Pacific-American Heritage Month

June – Caribbean-American Heritage Month

Consider these monthly themes when you schedule Cultural Arts programs in your school!

Presidents' Checklist

- ✓ Most important: Start sending in those dues payments. Once MCCPTA receives your first dues payments, your PTA will be issued 3 pink delegates cards. Please make sure to give these cards to your delegates as they may be required to present them at our Delegates Assemblies.
- ✓ Remember that you are submitting dues to MCCPTA (\$1 per member) and to Maryland PTA (\$3.25 per member). They are sent separately. See the MCCPTA voucher in this newsletter. MDPTA will send "bills" to your PTA directly.
- ✓ Financial Reviews should be completed by now with copies sent to Maryland PTA and MCCPTA.
- ✓ Take pity on your treasurers! Form 990 Tax Return is due November 15.
- ✓ Ask your Cluster Coordinator when the cluster will be meeting.
- ✓ Meet with your principal to ask for input on your school's Capital Improvement needs. Your Cluster Coordinator will be testifying before the Board of Education in November and will need your input.
- ✓ The traditional night for Elementary School PTA meetings falls on Election Day in November. Use this as an excuse to try another meeting time and see how well-attended a different time might be.

PTA, You Can Have It Your Way

At Harmony Hills Elementary School in Silver Spring we are happy to serve our students, parents, staff and local community. We are by no means flipping burgers....well, maybe at the "End of the Year Family Picnic". There definitely aren't any drive-thru lines, but we can customize an order if members join one of our planning committees and have their say.

Although this is not a commercial, Burger King's vintage slogan fits well with our PTA's approach to increase support from parents and local businesses this year. "You Can Have It Your Way!" For our parents, we started the year off with a "Back to School" special on membership dues for the month of September. As the year progresses, our way will be to combine our General Body meetings with family involvement activities. We chose Friday nights for all our functions, so homework and babysitting would not be a concern. Hopefully, this will allow families, who can't attend the regular meetings the opportunity to be updated on PTA events, and/or programs. Our recent movie night activity, which was held on a Friday evening allowed for family fun and PTA business to be discussed.

For our community businesses both big and small, this year our way will be to partner in the education of our children. Harmony Hills Elementary School is a Title I school with a current enrollment of about 600 students. To minimize fundraising efforts and increase community involvement, we are asking businesses to become PTA business members. Businesses benefit and are spotlighted in our newsletter thus giving them community recognition and access to their future workforce. This initiative also provides access to positive & professional role models.

The leader in me owes it to our kids at Harmony Hills ES to continue helping every child with one voice.

This is having it our way!

Shebra Evans, PTA President, Harmony Hills Elementary School

MCCPTA Calendar 2010-2011

Tuesday	10/26/10	Delegates Assembly - 7:30pm, Carver Auditorium <i>(Parent Involvement/Diversity Program - 6:30)</i>
Wednesday	10/27/10	BOD Meeting with BOE - 7pm
Wednesday	11/3/10	CIP Forum with MCPS – 7:30pm, Carver Auditorium
Thursday	11/4/10	BOD Meeting - 7:30pm, Carver Auditorium
Saturday	11/6/10	MCCPTA CIP Comment Workshop - 9:30am–Noon (Location TBD)
Wednesday-	11/10/10 –	BOE Boundary and Facility (CIP) Hearings – 7pm,
Thursday	11/11/10	Carver Auditorium
Friday-	11/12/10-	MDPTA Fall Convention - Maritime Institute,
Saturday	11/13/10	Linthicum Heights
Tuesday	11/23/10	Delegates Assembly – 7:30pm, Carver Auditorium <i>(Math WorkGroup Recommendations Program-6:30)</i>
Thursday	12/2/10	BOD Meeting - 7:30pm, Carver Auditorium
Monday	1/3/11	MCCPTA Operating Budget Forum - 7:30pm, Carver Auditorium
Thursday	1/6/11	BOD Meeting - 7:30pm, Carver Auditorium
Saturday	1/8/11	MCCPTA Operating Budget Workshop:
Wednesday	1/12/11	BOE Operating Budget Hearing – 7:00pm, Carver
Wednesday	1/19/11	BOE Operating Budget Hearing – 7:00pm, Carver
Tuesday	1/25/11	Delegates Assembly - 7:30pm, Carver Auditorium <i>(Superintendent Search Program - 6:30)</i>
Thursday	2/3/11	BOD Meeting - 7:30pm, Carver Auditorium
Tuesday	2/22/11	Delegates Assembly - 7:30pm, Carver Auditorium <i>(Bullying and CyberSafety Program - 6:30)</i>
Thursday	3/3/11	BOD Meeting - 7:30pm, Carver Auditorium
Tuesday	3/22/11	Delegates Assembly - 7:30pm, Carver Auditorium (Program TBD- 6:30)
Thursday	4/7/11	BOD Meeting - 7:30pm, Carver Auditorium
Tuesday	4/26/11	Delegates Assembly - 7:30pm, Carver Auditorium (Elections with check-in starting at 6:30pm)
Thursday	5/05/11	BOD Meeting - 7:30pm, Carver Auditorium
Tuesday	5/24/11	Delegates Assembly - 7:30pm, Carver Auditorium
Thursday	6/02/11	BOD Meeting – 7:30pm, Carver Auditorium

Carver Educational Service Center is located at 850 Hungerford Drive, Rockville. The Auditorium is located right inside the North Entrance facing Hungerford Drive and closest to Mannakee Drive.

BOE: Board of Education

BOD: Board of Directors (MCCPTA Officers, AVPs, Cluster Coordinators, Committee Chairs)

Check our website at www.mccpta.net for the most up to date calendar of events!

Free Green Guides

PTA and Parenting have teamed up to bring you "Small Steps, Big Difference - Your Guide to Going Green at Home and In School." It is a fun and informative 8-page mini-magazine, that offers parents and families tips and information on going green at home and at school. The mini-magazine was created for PTAs, parents, and families alike to start thinking of the small steps that they can take to go green. Need some tips on how to use the magazine? Consider:

- Giving a copy to all PTA members, or better yet, all the families at your school.
- Using it to kick off your PTA's efforts to go green by sharing it with families in your community! Share it in community centers, libraries, recreation centers, or in any other location (be sure to ask first).
- Using the magazine as a part of a goodie bag for all parents at your upcoming parent-teacher conferences.

You can register to receive as many free copies of the magazine as you like (in quantities of 500).

Quantities are limited. For information, go to www.pta.org/3452.htm

Make sure your community knows the PTA's role in getting information out to them—via email lists, websites, meetings, coffees, student directory, whatever YOUR PTA does—and that they understand that this is supported by PTA membership dues and volunteer efforts. Then ask for their support. Let them know their membership means a great deal.

Communicate! Never assume everyone knows what you do. Not your parents, not your staff. Let your community know that their membership improves the educational experience of every student through whatever you are doing: enrichment programs, school staff support, advocacy, communication. This is really what PTA is all about!

Participate in Community Roundtables with the Board of Education

Parents, staff, students and community members are invited to participate in discussions with the Board of Education at this year's remaining community roundtable:

- **October 28** at Wheaton High School, Silver Spring, 7–9 p.m.

Participants will discuss the topic, “**What do you value about Montgomery County Public Schools?** MCPS cannot do it all: So, what are the things we cannot do without? What will be needed to improve education in the next 5–10 years, and beyond, in Montgomery County?”

How to Participate: Call 301-279-3617. Foreign language interpretation will be available in Spanish, French, Chinese, Korean and Vietnamese. Sign language interpretation can be requested at least one week prior to the event by calling 301-517-5539 or -5582 (Voice/TTY). Childcare also will be available.

Public Comment Sought by Board of Education

· Policy FKB, *Modernization/Renovation*. This policy sets forth guidelines to establish a systematic approach for replacement of building systems and facilities. The focus of the policy should shift to sustaining schools in good condition through systematic life-cycle asset replacement, as well as modernization.

· Policy IED, *Framework and Structure of High School Education*. This policy sets forth guidelines to staff and community for the organization of high schools and the delivery of instructional programs that set high expectations for academic achievement for all students and prepares them for success in postsecondary education and the world of work.

To review both policies, go to

<http://montgomeryschoolsmd.org/departments/policy/>

Individuals who wish to provide comments on one or both policies should respond in writing by October 29, 2010. All written responses should be sent to the Office of the Superintendent of Schools, 850 Hungerford Drive, Room 122, Rockville, Maryland 20850, or to the Board of Education at boe@mcpsmd.org. The responses will be shared with the Board of Education.

MCCPTA Membership Awards 2010-2011

MCCPTA will recognize our local PTA/PTSA's that are building membership with three categories of awards this year. These awards will be presented at our Presidents and Principals Dinner, May 18, 2011. Data will be drawn from Maryland PTA's records; membership totals used to determine award will be as of March 31, 2011. Work your membership and be MCCPTA's "Hidden Treasure"!

I. GROW IT! These awards will recognize PTA/PTSA's for their year-on-year growth in percentage terms. Awards will be given in 5% increments, i.e., awards for up to 5% growth, up to 10% growth, etc.

II. BUILD AND SUSTAIN IT! These awards will be given to the three PTA/PTSA's from each school category--elementary, middle, high, and special school--that have the largest membership in absolute terms.

III. ENGAGE IT! These awards will be given to the PTA/PTSA from each school category--elementary, middle, high, and special school--that has the greatest PTA member to student number ratio. That ratio serves as a proxy for community involvement.

Membership Committee

The MCCPTA Membership Committee is working with our local PTA/PTSA leaders to grow membership to increase our collective voice for the children of Montgomery County and thereby the resources available to our local public schools. We are anxiously awaiting the initial membership number from our locals; anecdotal evidence suggests that our goal of 75,000 members in 2010-11 remains a distinct possibility thanks to the drive of our local PTA presidents and local membership leaders.

Be sure to highlight the efforts of PTA at the local, county, state, and national level as advocates for public education. Use *Every child. One voice.* in your communications and let them know that their membership makes this critical advocacy possible

MCCPTA Committee Reports

For complete reports, visit the committee's webpage at www.MCCPTA.net.
Please share with all interested parents!

Capital Improvement Program Committee

2010 CIP Committee Initiatives. The CIP Committee's workplan identifies three initiatives for the 2010-11 school year: (1) review of countywide CIP projects; (2) drafting of a Parents' Guide to the Construction Process; and (3) study of costs related to the maintenance and renewal of athletic fields. The Committee is recruiting volunteers to assist with each of these initiatives.

FACT Assessments. In August and September, MCCPTA President Kristin Tribble and CIP Chair Steve Augustino attended weekly meetings with MCPS and contractor EMG Group to refine the proposed Facility Assessment criteria and to develop scoring metrics for each factor. The draft document will be released for public comment on or around October 15. Clusters and individual schools may comment on proposed scoring criteria in November. The BOE is targeting action on the FACT Assessments at its December 2010 meeting. MCCPTA will submit comments and the CIP Committee will provide materials to assist cluster and individual school comments.

Cultural Arts Committee

This year, MCCPTA-EPI is introducing a new service for local PTA's. Performances of the Showcases will be videotaped and made available on a password-protected site for local PTA Cultural Arts Chairs and MCPS principals to view. This will provide an opportunity for those who are unable to attend any or all of the Showcases to see and hear the performances.

All schools are encouraged to have their Cultural Arts reps join the PTArts eList by sending their NAME, SCHOOL, and POSITION to:

PTArts-subscribe@yahoogroups.com

The eList is an excellent way to learn more about the shows that are available and for members to communicate with each other about which shows they recommend. The 2010-11 Performing Arts Catalogue, listing all of the approved performances and giving a description of each, contact information and cost is available online, on the MCPS Fine Arts website, and the link has been sent out to the PTArts eList.

Curriculum Committee

K-5 Curriculum Frameworks and Elementary Integrated Curriculum

The Board of Education granted preliminary approval to a new K-5 curriculum framework. The K-5 Framework includes new Mathematics and Reading/Language Arts standards developed by the Common Core State Standards Initiative. This initiative is a state-led effort coordinated by the National Governors Association Center for Best Practices (NGA Center) and the Council of Chief State School Officers (CCSSO). The effort was first widely announced in the summer of 2009, a draft version of standards for English/Language Arts and Mathematics was released in March 2010, and the final version was released in June. Maryland is one of 35 states that adopted the standards this summer (The District of Columbia did as well but Virginia did not.) More information can be found at corestandards.org. Chris Minnich from CCSSO spoke about Common Standards at the September Delegates Assembly. His PowerPoint presentation is available on the MCCPTA website at the following link:

http://mccpta.net/MCCPTA_news/2010-2011/Common_Core_States.ppt

The K-5 Framework also includes the existing standards in other subject areas such as Social Studies, Science, and the Arts. New in the Framework are Thinking and Academic Success Skills Framework created by MCPS. The K-5 Framework can be found on the MCPS website at the following link:

<http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/curriculum/office/>

Parents are encouraged to review the framework and send in their comments. The Board of Education plans on final approval of the K-5 Framework later this fall.

Math Workgroup Report

The Math Workgroup has encountered delays and will now present their report to the Board of Education on Tuesday, November 9th. The Program for the November Delegates Assembly is scheduled to focus on the Math Workgroup Report.

MCCPTA Curriculum Committee Meetings

Thursday, October 21 and December 9 in the Board Room at the Carver Educational Services Center. These meetings will be a chance for parents to discuss curriculum issues and help plan what advocacy MCCPTA should take.

MCPS Advisory Committees

If you are interested in serving one of the following groups or would like more information, please contact MCCPTA Curriculum Committee Chairs Ted Willard and Kathy Boehlert.

MCPS Curriculum Advisory Committee (CAC)

December 6, March 7, & May 2 from 7pm-9pm

The MCPS CAC is led by Betsy Brown, Director of Department of Curriculum and Instruction and meetings tend to cover issues in specific content areas.

MCPS Curriculum Advisory Assembly (CAA)

October 20, February 9 & April 13 from 8:30am-11am

The MCPS CAA is led by Erick Lang, Associate Superintendent for Curriculum and Instructional Programs and meetings tend to cover broad curriculum topics.

MCPS Standards-Based Grading and Reporting Parent Feedback Group

October 20, February 23, & June 1 from 7:00 to 8:30

This group is for parent representatives from the 23 schools currently piloting the new Standards Based Report cards.

Gifted and Talented Committee

The GT Liaisons Fall Training Meeting has been scheduled for October 25, 2010 at Magruder High School. A representative from AEI will attend and give a presentation to the liaisons.

Guidance and Counseling Committee

The Guidance and Counseling Committee will have their first meeting on Thursday, October 28th at 7:30 pm at Carver Educational Services Center. The goal of the first meeting is to determine strategic priorities for the committee to address in school year 2010/2011. Contact has been made with Dr. Newton, Supervisor of School Counseling Services. Dr. Newton has been invited to the Guidance and Counseling Committee meeting, but confirmation has not been received.

Safety & Health Committee

Chairs Donna Pfeiffer and Susan Burkinshaw are gathering information on the transition from the EFO (Educational Facilities Officer) program to the nationally recognized SRO (School Resource Officers) program. The primary concern focuses on our 25 high schools sharing only 9 SROs and middle schools do not have an SRO liaison. With so few officers in our schools, they have less time to build relationships with students and their support to the school security team has diminished.

The chairs met with County Council member –Chair of the Public Safety Committee- Phil Andrews. Discussion focused on when the county will be able to further develop the SRO program. Mr. Andrews stated that next year's budget will be just as challenging (if not worse). It was suggested that a high school student mentoring program be created to support selected elementary school students. This could be developed through National Honors Program, SGA, Leos Clubs.

Information is also being gathered on how schools are implementing the new anti-bullying policy. Our goal for next month will be to set up a Safety & Health Committee e-list, encouraging at least one person per school to sign up.

Special Education Committee

On Monday, October 4, 2010, we held our annual kick off meeting. Our next meeting is scheduled for Monday, December 6, 2010 where members will discuss their special needs "expertise" and/or areas of interest with fellow chairs.

Student Service Learning (SSL) Committee

The SSL Committee has been hard at work to increase its reach into every middle and high school. We share information regarding the SSL program requirements and opportunities to parent liaisons at almost 60 percent of these schools. We are still looking for liaisons at the following Middle and High Schools:

Middle Schools - Argyle, Cabin John, Cemente, Eastern, Farquhar, Frost, Key, King, Kingsview, Montgomery Village, North Bethesda, Parkland, Poole, Redland, Shady Grove, and Takoma Park.

High Schools - Montgomery Blair, Churchill, Edison, Walter Johnson, Kennedy, Seneca Valley, Springbrook, Watkins Mill, Wheaton and Wootton.

If you, or someone you know, are willing to receive emails and distribute them to your parent community, please contact debolang@yahoo.com. It's a very small time commitment, but will make a huge difference to your student volunteers and to their families!!

Proposed MCCPTA Resolutions

At our September Delegates Assembly, the following three resolutions were proposed. Discussion on these resolutions is taking place on our Delegates eList. To subscribe, send an email to mccpta_delegates-subscribe@yahoo.com. Be a part of the conversation and stay informed!

Proposed Resolution on the FY 2012 Capital Improvement Program Budget And Amendments to the FY 2011-16 CIP

WHEREAS, in November 2010, the Montgomery County Board of Education will consider a Recommended FY 2012 Capital Budget appropriation request and an amended FY 2011–2016 Capital Improvements Program (CIP) request;

WHEREAS, the FY 2012 Capital Budget appropriation request will require the availability of sufficient funding sources from the state and county budgets, including state school construction funding;

WHEREAS, in this fiscal environment, the availability of sufficient funding is subject to significant uncertainty; and

WHEREAS, the types of projects planned in the FY 2012 Capital Budget appropriation request and the amended FY 2011-2016 Capital Improvements Program would provide critical school additions, modernizations and other improvements to provide students with safe, secure and adequate learning facilities;

THEREFORE, the MCCPTA RESOLVES:

THAT the County and the Board of Education should implement in FY 2012 the planned activities outlined in the FY 2011-16 CIP;

THAT the County and State should provide adequate funding to preserve the County's position as providing one of the premier public school systems in the nation;

THAT the State should provide school construction funding to the County in an amount at least equal to \$40 million;

THAT the County and the Board of Education should reconcile budgetary restraints in a way that does not harm the educational opportunities provided to all students and that provides all students with a safe, healthy and modern learning environment for education;

THAT MCCPTA supports prioritizing available funds to ensure that planned school additions and modernizations are not delayed; and

THAT MCCPTA further supports prioritizing available funds to county-wide programs for HVAC Replacement, Roof Replacement, Building Modifications and Program Improvements, Planned Life Cycle Asset Replacement and School Safety Improvements.

Proposed Resolution on FY2012 Operating Budget Priorities

WHEREAS, MCCPTA's mission is to speak for children and without question our highest budget priority is education;

BE IT RESOLVED that the MCCPTA Delegates approve the following operating budget priorities for the organization to concentrate on this budget year each item to be given due consideration in relation to the others:

Well-maintained, safe, secure, mold-free school facilities,

Judicious curriculum rollout; no new curriculum without adequate staff development and materials,

Sufficient staffing for reasonable class sizes,

Hours-based staffing for special education students,

After school programs,

and

Academic support beyond the classroom for all students, including additional teaching support for on-, below- and above-grade level learning

Proposed MCCPTA FY2012 OPERATING BUDGET COMPACT

The Montgomery County Council of Parent-Teacher Associations (MCCPTA) believes that an Operating Budget for the Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS) must provide funding to make progress towards the fundamental requirements described in this budget compact. This compact will provide the basis for testimony before the Board of Education and the County Council and in other forums concerning the MCPS Operating Budget for FY 2011. MCCPTA will not support any budget, MCPS Strategic Plan, or other planning or policy document, that does not make progress towards the requirements of this compact.

Goal 1 of the MCPS Strategic Plan: Ensure Success for Every Student.

MCPS must focus on raising academic performance of all students so that all may reach their full potential. There is a need for uniformly high expectations that all students, including Special Education, ESOL, and Gifted/Talented students, will succeed and will have their needs met. There must be sufficient funding for programs to raise the performance of under-performing students. There must also be adequate funding to enhance the performance of students who have attained satisfactory levels of performance but who can do better, and to challenge students who exceed satisfactory levels of performance but are able to perform at even higher levels. In order to further these goals, MCCPTA supports in principle the following initiatives from the former years and encourages renewed support for these initiatives:

- Class size reductions
- Reduction in the use of substitute teachers in the classroom for teacher training
- Math content coaches
- Educational facilities officers and other security measures

In addition, the budget should provide for the following:

- Certification in the appropriate content areas for middle school teachers teaching high school courses and specialty courses offered in signature programs
- More staffing for art, music, and physical education
- Academic intervention/support such as summer learning opportunities for all students based on needs of the students throughout the County, not limited to Title I schools
- Adequate and equitable allocation of elementary school resources and staffing, based on school enrollment

Goal 2 of the Strategic Plan: Provide an Adequate Instructional Program

As adequate educational staffing is achieved, it will become even more important to provide staff with the tools necessary to assure success. In order to further this goal, MCCPTA supports the following staff initiatives from the past several years and encourages continued support for these initiatives:

- Reform of the middle school curriculum to increase rigor and ensure instruction appropriate for each student.
- Expansion of accelerated and enriched programs into more secondary schools
- Improvements to technology and support for improved technology use
- Implementation of on-line achievement and reporting systems in all secondary schools
- Move toward hours based staffing for special education students

In addition, priority should be given to providing for the following academic and developmental supports for students

- Increased support for high school literacy
- More emphasis on providing a well-rounded curriculum including a rich science, social studies, and arts curriculum
- Improved staffing ratios for LAD
- Increased academic intervention/support resources, including:
 - o Specific action/intervention plans for students not meeting standards under the grading and reporting policy
 - o Specific action/intervention plans for students not meeting extracurricular activity eligibility requirements.
 - o Consistent funding and implementation of special programs across the county
- Timely provision of new materials and textbooks when new curricula are introduced
- Improved vertical articulation to ensure students receive the foundation for future curriculum options.

Goal 3 of the Strategic Plan: Strengthen productive partnerships for education.

In a system with sufficient teaching resources in adequate buildings, other supports will still be needed to ensure a quality education for all children. We support continuation of the following former initiatives:

- Enhanced translation services
- Expanded study circles
- Parent access to on-line achievement and reporting systems in all secondary schools

However, there is a desperate need for enhanced communication and outreach at the local school level, especially in light of the growing number of families with limited knowledge of English. There is also a need for more general support for students and families. Therefore, we request more support for the following:

- Local school based resources for communications, especially with non-English speaking parents, and increased translation services
- Additional guidance counselors, pupil personnel workers, and other staff to address social/emotional/developmental needs at all levels
- Comprehensive countywide plan to grow the school volunteer base

Goal 4 of the Strategic Plan: Create a Positive Work Environment in a Self-Renewing Organization.

Development, retention, and recruitment of talented educational, administrative, and support staff are fundamental to maintaining a high quality of education in Montgomery County. The following initiatives are needed:

- Reduction in high turnover rate for staff from Principals to building services staff
- Increased diversity in hiring
- Focus on providing timely teacher training BEFORE the roll-out of new curricula
- Adequate training for all staff, including supporting services.

Goal 5 of the Strategic Plan: Provide high quality business services that are essential to the educational success of students.

MCCPTA recognizes that the supporting services, including maintenance, plant operations, transportation, and other central office functions play a key role in student achievement. Outcome measurement should be used to rigorously evaluate programs for effectiveness and efficiency. It is imperative that the business model for delivering all MCPS services include accountability to parents. We support the following initiatives in prior plans:

- New budget document: *Superintendent's Recommended Operating Budget in Brief*
- Program to improve school building security through increased surveillance in secondary schools and around elementary school entrances

We urge attention to the following:

- Assessment of new programs and curricula before and after implementation, to ensure that sufficient course materials, guidebooks, and implementation documents are available
- Evaluation of the use of new technology to ensure that it is the most cost-effective way to increase student performance
- Improved nutritional value for school lunch and a la carte menu selections

Finally, the setting in which education takes place should not be neglected. For optimal learning our schools, including portable classrooms, must provide an environment where the children feel safe and their health is protected. The following issues need to be addressed:

- Increased recess supervision
- More attention to addressing discipline problems, especially at the middle school level, including the problem of gangs, bullying and risk to student safety
- Adoption by MCPS of objective standards for portable conditions and installation, routine building systems maintenance, and prompt response to unanticipated repair and maintenance needs
- Revision of salary structures or increased outside contracting for positions that are persistently vacant, such as HVAC mechanics and speech and language therapists
- More maintenance and repair personnel, particularly HVAC mechanics
- Expanded indoor air quality staff, with training in building envelope issues
- Increased staffing of building services
- Reassessment and adjustment of traffic patterns around schools to promote pedestrian safety
- Reassessment of bus stop placement to promote safety
- More activity buses to promote participation in after school programming as well as a safe return home from after-school programs
- BMPs (Building Maintenance Plans) for all new schools and increased implementation of BMPs for all other aging MCPS schools

The MCCPTA recognizes that an Operating Budget that satisfies all of these requirements will necessitate a continued strong commitment to education by Montgomery County. Such a commitment and investment, however, is more than justified by the benefits a well-resourced educational system provides to the community.

HELP US HELP YOU!

Please submit your dues received so far. Then, continue sending in dues each month. Remember, the membership drive continues ALL year.

Delegate cards will be sent to local PTAs once the first dues are received by MCCPTA so send those dues in now!

MCCPTA DUES PAYMENT VOUCHER FOR 2010-11

Return bottom portion to the MCCPTA office at: MCCPTA, 2096 Gaither Road, Suite 204 Rockville, MD 20850. Keep the top portion for your records. **Please note, PTA membership is open all year and dues are to be paid monthly as new members come in.**

*****KEEP THIS PORTION FOR YOUR RECORDS*****

MCCPTA Dues - Due Monthly

Name of PTA: _____

Number of Member: Adults _____ Students _____ Teachers _____ Total _____

Amount Remitted (\$1.00 per member): \$ _____ Check# _____

PTA Treasurer: _____ Phone Number _____

*****RETURN THIS PORTION TO MCCPTA*****

MCCPTA Dues - Due Monthly

Name of PTA: _____

Federal Tax ID Number: _____

Number of Member: Adults _____ Students _____ Teachers _____ Total _____

Amount Remitted (\$1.00 per member): \$ _____ Check# _____

PTA Treasurer: _____ Phone Number _____

For MCCPTA Office Use Only:

Delegate Card Numbers:

Date:

MCCPTA Newsletter

Pony Mailing

2096 Gaither Road

Suite 204

Rockville, MD 20850

Please share with PTA Delegates and PTA Members

October 2010

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