

MCCPTA Committee Work Plan 2011/12

MCCPTA Safety & Health Committee

Chairs: Donna Pfeiffer & Susan Burkinshaw

email: donnaPfeiffer@gmail.com and susan.burkinshaw@verizon.net

Vision: Every student and teacher has an inherent right to be in a safe, healthy and secure environment while they are under the care of the public school system.

We will work to support National PTA position statements and resolutions.

Under the direction and approval of MCCPTA, the committee will address the following goals this year:

Goals: The committee will assist in evaluating MCPS policies and practices to determine areas of concern for the safety and well being of students/teachers and work as a partner with MCPS and other community leaders to advocate for improvement:

- Inform PTA members about the MCPS Anti-Bullying Policy and work with MCPS to ensure that the policy is implemented across all MCPS schools.
- Monitor the implementation of the School Resource Officers (SRO) program (now that we're down to only 6 officers, one per Montgomery County police district), while advocating to restore the program to provide at least one assigned SRO to each high school and its cluster of middle schools.
- Advocate for improved maintenance standards for buildings and portables facilities which will enhance the indoor air quality in which our children learn and our teachers teach.
- Support "green technologies" which will improve the physical quality of our facilities and have the added benefit of saving money over time in maintenance costs. Educate our members about the current problems.
- Advocate for better quality portables that can withstand a code red emergency situation and improved portable specifications to improve their security and air quality. Continue to educate parents so they are aware of safety issues.
- Promote safety of children on playgrounds. Encourage methods of reducing undesirable behaviors, ranging from bullying to substance abuse and gang membership, and assist with education, programs or changes.
- Promote awareness with parents about electronic technology student's use which can affect their safety.
- Promote continuing improvements to building security.
- Continue to promote emergency preparedness, partnering with MCPD/ SROs to ensure that our school's emergency preparedness plans are adequate.
- Promote safe access to and from school for students. This includes safety while riding on the bus, safe walking routes, safe pick-up and drop-off of students, and raising awareness of safe driving practices in our community.
- Monitor the debate between Natural and Artificial Turf fields as they are installed/maintained across the county and their impacts on the health and safety of MCPS students.
- Promote the use of school gardens
- Communicate with MCPS officials about nutrition and the continual improvement of the school lunch program.

Under the direction and approval of MCCPTA, the committee will take the following action steps:

Action Steps:

- Work with MCPS & MCPD to continually identify and resolve any safety, health and security issues that may be facing students. Relevant MCPS staff includes Directors of School Performance, Security, Transportation and Facilities.

- Encourage local PTAs to form Safety & Health Committees that can focus on issues of safety and security in each school and encourage these local chairs to be members of the MCCPTA Safety & Health Committee.
- Work with MCPS to improve communications with parents regarding safety and security incidents.
- Monitor school budget process for adequate resources devoted to safety and security related functions.
- Participate on Montgomery County School Health Council.
- Work with the website committee chair to update the committee webpage as needed.

Activities related to School Resource Officer (SRO) Program:

- We will continue to advocate for at least one officer assigned to each cluster. We will continue to partner and foster relationships to strengthen communication between Montgomery County Police Department as well as MCPS, County Council Members and other county officials and State Legislators.
- We will work with County Council and the BOE to support funding for SRO program.

Activities involved in increased maintenance standards, indoor air quality and other environmental concerns:

- Promote indoor air quality in schools as stated in the IAQ Resolution.
- Encourage MCPS to recognize indoor air quality as a "health issue" for budgeting purposes.
- Continue to promote clean drinking water in schools.
- We will work to collaborate with MCPS Maintenance and Facilities Departments to understand their limitations and needs for additional resources to help us reach our goals.

Activities involved in improving the quality of portables and portable specifications and Education:

- Encourage MCPS to actively seek better quality portables.
- Continue to point out safety issues and concerns about portables to MCPS staff.
- Work with MCCPTA VP of Legislation to continue legislative efforts in providing standards for portables.

Activities involved in promoting safety on playgrounds and reducing undesirable behaviors

- Monitor and continue to advocate for the need for more recess aides.
- Keep local PTAs apprised on alcohol and substance abuse.
- Assist and promote gang prevention and awareness among parents. Develop relationships with MCPD staff who are assigned to gangs.
- Work with groups such as Montgomery County Drawing the Line to promote prevention of teen drinking.
- Communicate with MC community on the importance of promoting a healthy school environment including healthy lunches, beverages and foods, and physical activity.
- Provide resources to parents about internet safety and effective intervention programs.

Activities relating to building security

Continue to monitor CCTV Systems in High Schools and Middle schools and the Visitor Management Systems in all schools.

Activities relating to emergency preparedness

- Work with MCPD/ SROs to ensure our school's emergency preparedness plans are adequate and defined to parents.
- Keep PTAs informed of emergency preparedness protocols developed by MCPS.
- Work with MCPS officials on planning for special challenges presented by portable classrooms.

Expenses:

\$100 for snacks and refreshments at regular meetings.

\$200 for health/safety related conference(s)