

**MCCPTA Safety Committee  
Work Plan for MCCPTA 2009-2010**

**Committee:** Safety

**Chair:** Laurie Halverson

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**Members:**

Amy Anderson  
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Jody Bleiberg  
Susan Burkinshaw  
Rose Clifford  
Leslie Cohen  
Jennifer Cope  
Elizabeth Cullen  
Susan Danziger  
Brad Davis  
Sarah Defnet  
Vicki Dohls  
Anissa Green  
Andrew Jaime  
Rick Jervey  
Jim Keenan  
Beth Kennington  
Amber Khan  
Melissa Kupferschmid

Valerie Levin  
Anne Lieberman  
Carroll Lovelace  
Karen McLaughlin  
Jonathan Mitz  
Pam Moomau  
Robert Ostlund  
Betsy Paul  
Donna Pfeiffer  
Dale Ryan  
Victor Salazar  
Lisa Sanfuentes  
David Schiff  
Susan Schwartz  
Paul Sciannella  
Rebecca Smondrowski  
Dennis Stutz  
Charlotte Taylor  
Delia Tetelman  
Harry Thomas  
Susan J. Thomas  
Susie Warner  
Lori Wilen  
Charles Wilkes  
Danuta Wilson

**Vision:** Every student and teacher have an inherent right to be in a safe 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:

1. Inform PTA members about the proposed MCPS Anti-Bullying Policy to make sure they are aware of the public comment period this fall. Work with MCPS to ensure that the policy, when finalized, is implemented across all MCPS schools.
2. 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.
3. 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.
4. 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.
5. 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.
6. Promote awareness with parents about electronic technology students use which can affect their safety.
7. Promote continuing improvements to building security.
8. Continue to promote emergency preparedness.

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

**Action Steps:**

- Work with MCPS to continually identify and resolve any safety and security issues that may be facing students. Relevant MCPS staff include Directors of School Performance, Security, Transportation, and Facilities.
- Encourage local PTAs to form Safety Committees that can focus on issues of safety and security in each school and encourage these local Safety Chairs to be members of the MCCPTA Safety 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.

**Activities related to promoting safe access to and from school**

- As a follow up to the MCCPTA Resolution on Crossing Guards, we will continue to advocate for more crossing guards, focusing on adding crossing guards at middle schools. This year, we hope to build a relationship with the Montgomery County Police Department as well as continuing relationships with MCPS staff members.
- Work with MCPS to ensure that no new walking routes will be added before the safety of these routes is ensured and parents have given appropriate feedback.
- Encourage local PTA Safety Chairs to monitor pedestrian and bus safety at their schools and seek help from MCCPTA as needed in advocating for their safety needs.
- Continue working with the county and MCPS on improving walking routes to school.
- Continue to advocate for education in driver safety while encouraging students and parents that buses are the safest (and “greenest”) form of transportation to and from school.
- Work with Division of Construction to make pedestrian safety an explicit criterion for new construction and safe access plans.
- Learn more about schools that are still ADA Noncompliant and help advocate for compliance.

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

- Promote indoor air quality in schools as stated in last year’s IAQ Resolution.
- Encourage MCPS to recognize indoor air quality as a “health issue” for budgeting purposes.
- Continue to monitor the enforcement of water flushing procedures for schools listed, and 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.
- Provide resources to parents through the Safety Committee page about internet safety.

#### **Activities relating to building security**

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

### **Activities relating to emergency preparedness**

- 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.