



The Montgomery County Council of Parent-Teacher Associations

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For Immediate Release
August 29, 2010

MCCPTA Leadership Focuses on Priorities for 2010-11 School Year
Facilities, curriculum and class size among top issues

As the new school year begins August 30, Montgomery County Council of Parent Teacher Associations (MCCPTA) officers continue to focus on priorities and concerns raised by PTA leaders during meetings held with them across the county in June and July, 2010.

“Our listening sessions revealed common concerns expressed by PTAs throughout Montgomery County,” said MCCPTA President Kristin Tribble. “They include the need for well-maintained, safe, secure and mold-free school facilities, a continued focus on adequate staffing and appropriate class size, and academic supports for all students to include additional teaching support in the classroom as necessary.”

A few of the many concerns and issues MCCPTA will discuss as they draw up their top priorities for the 2010-11 school year:

- **Safe Schools and Facilities**– including well-maintained classrooms, freedom from bullying and gang activities, and more student resource officers.
- **Curriculum** - a more cautious implementation of curriculum reforms, especially accelerated math programs, with more assistance to students, more teacher training, and adequate instructional materials.

- **Class Size** - Reducing class size has been a recurring focus for years and MCCPTA has achieved success in this advocacy effort. However, sharply reduced state and local funds last year resulted in an increase of one student per classroom. During difficult budget times, MCCPTA will not want to lose ground in class size, and while we weather the recession, MCCPTA will want MCPS to ensure that learning will not be affected.
- **After-School Programs** - MCCPTA will likely continue to place a priority on additional learning and enrichment programs and to extend protections of the school community environment to students beyond the school day.
- **Academic Support for All Students** – MCCPTA wants to ensure that every student has help “filling the gaps” in his or her education – including in-school tutoring opportunities, after-school programs and summer programs.

"With the current budget situation and a new school superintendent on the horizon, it is more important than ever for parents across the county to get involved in their childrens' schools," Tribble noted. "Volunteer, join the PTA, attend meetings, be a part of the school community. And then, let your voice be heard."

The Montgomery County Council of Parent Teacher Associations serves 189 local PT(S)As and their over 50,000 - parents, teachers and people in our community who, through advocacy, support the mission of PTA:

To support and speak on behalf of children and youth in the schools, in the community, and before governmental agencies and other organizations that make decisions affecting children

To assist parents in developing the skills they need to raise and protect children;

To encourage parent and public involvement in the public schools of the nation.

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Caption: MCCPTA President Kristin Tribble speaks with a young student at the MCPS Back-to-School Fair on Saturday, August 28 at the Carver Center in Rockville, Md.



Caption: MCCPTA Vice President, Educational Issues, Laurie Halverson speaks with Julius West Middle School Vice President Robert Oslund at the MCPS Back-to-School Fair on Saturday, August 28 at the Carver Center in Rockville, Md.



MCCPTA Vice President, Administration, Paul Morrison and Vice President, Programs, DeBora King greet families at the MCCPTA table during the MCPS Back-to-School Fair, held Saturday, August 28 at the Carver Center in Rockville, Md.