



The Montgomery County Council of Parent-Teacher Associations

July 27, 2010

Mr. Sam Macer
President
Maryland PTA
5 Central Avenue
Glen Burnie, Maryland 21061

Re: Complaint

Dear Mr. Macer:

Thank you for the opportunity to address the complaint regarding the establishment of an ad hoc committee on growth projections. First, I would like to request a copy of the complaint and any MDPTA minutes (or highlights) of meetings in which this complaint is considered or addressed. I am hopeful that all parties will resolve to dismiss the complaint and allow MCCPTA to pursue its commitment to the children of Montgomery County. We all have much work to do.

The support for the MCCPTA executive committee in establishing the ad hoc committee is threefold:

Basis for Authority:

Article IX, Section 4c states that the *duties of the executive committee shall be to...manage the business of the organization*. MCCPTA Bylaws Chair Andrea Bernardo and former NPTA and MDPTA officer Vicki Rafel were consulted and both interpret our bylaws to give the executive committee the authority to establish the ad hoc committee. Both also pointed out that the ad hoc committee is temporary in nature, is solely information-gathering, and does not change or affect the current mission of MCCPTA. In addition, a precedent was set when this same authority was utilized in prior years with no objection.

We understand and respect the interpretation by the MDPTA Bylaws Chair, but continue to assert that interpretations may vary and deference should be offered to a Council's own interpretation of their bylaws. Please note that the Chair's recommendation was to amend the language to more clearly *give* the executive committee the appropriate authority; it was not in order to *remove* the authority. Apparently, other council executive committees also, in fact, have the authority to establish ad hoc committees.

Rationale for the Decision

A concern over growth projections has admittedly existed for years in Montgomery County. The incoming executive officers listened to comments made during the June BOD meeting and during

June/July meetings with our six areas of clusters. We heard a consensus for an ad hoc committee when we broached the idea at these meetings. The support was evident in the 11 individuals from across the county and representing 10 different clusters who volunteered to serve on the committee. The support was evident in the many positive and encouraging emails received from Board members. The support was evident in the frustration expressed at the potential delay due to this complaint.

Further, the executive committee determined the need to proceed immediately with the establishment of the committee. As with all MCCPTA committees, the summer months are the opportune time to prepare and organize. September is filled with candidate forums, back-to-school nights, PTA meetings, and other obligations. It would have been to the committee's disadvantage to delay opportunities to meet with MCPS officials and to prepare a plan of action to meet their charge.

The charge of this ad hoc committee addresses a chronic serious concern within our community. It will only aid our membership in their understanding of the issue. It does not detract from our mission nor does it "*defeat the purposes and basic policies of the National and Maryland PTA*". We are here to serve our membership and all families in Montgomery County and this is a step in the right direction.

Corrective Steps

As mentioned, we acknowledge the conflict in interpretations of our bylaws. We look forward to working closely with the MDPTA Bylaws Chair to include appropriate language that will avoid future conflicts in interpretations and potential objections.

Further, it is our intention to request the MCCPTA Board of Directors to ratify or approve the establishment of this ad hoc committee at our August 26, 2010 BOD meeting. They will also be asked to approve the charge of the committee and be given the opportunity to make any changes if so desired. We understand that should the MDPTA committee on state, council, and local relationships make any recommendations beyond dismissal of the complaint, MCCPTA would have 30 days to respond. It is our firm belief that by that time, and following our August BOD meeting, this complaint will be a moot point.

Lastly, I am willing to meet with committee members to discuss the points provided as well as any other factors surrounding this complaint. That said, it would be advantageous to all parties to end MDPTA's role in this matter promptly based simply on the positions provided above.

We look forward to a very productive year and a very productive relationship with Maryland PTA.

Sincerely,

Kristin Tribble
President