

May 28, 2007

Martin Creel, Director, AEI
Montgomery County Public Schools
850 Hungerford Drive
Rockville, MD 20850

Dear Mr. Creel:

I am writing with regard to the Accelerated and Enriched Instruction Advisory Committee. As you recall, when you first contacted MCCPTA to ask for two representatives to sit on this advisory committee, you were advised that the proposed meeting dates of the fourth Tuesday of the month were extremely problematic for our organization. The fourth Tuesday of the months of September, October, November, January, February, March, and April are our Delegates Assemblies.

I informed you at that time that MCCPTA desired to place two representatives on the advisory committee who were active within MCCPTA and who would be able to report to our delegates at the assemblies as well as take parent input back to the advisory committee. You were also informed that any MCCPTA representative who was active within MCCPTA would have schedule conflicts and would also not be able to report to our delegates at the assemblies as they would be attending an advisory committee meeting on the very same evening.

You expressed an understanding of these conflicts and agreed to revisit the dates of the meetings. It is my understanding that the committee did vote to continue with the fourth Tuesday of the month. It is disappointing that the group was not apprised that this meeting date severely compromises MCCPTA's ability to fully participate in the work of the advisory committee.

As we move forward, I will likely have to replace one of our representatives, if not both on this advisory committee due to the scheduling conflict. I also want to be very clear regarding the consequences of meeting on the fourth Tuesday of the month. If the occasion arises that the advisory committee wants comments or input from MCCPTA, there will be at the very least a two month turn around time. If information is released for comment at an advisory committee meeting, MCCPTA will be unable to discuss this information until the next month's delegate assembly and then, even if we ask our delegates to act on any recommendations or endorse any comments without having had the chance to take the information back to their local PTAs for discussion, our input will not get back to the AEI Advisory Committee until the next month's meeting. If issues arise that delegates want to be able to discuss with their local PTAs, this turn around time will be increased to at least three months.

I am belaboring this point because I want it to be well understood that when the time comes to offer comments on the final policy on accelerated and enriched instruction and

MCCPTA includes in their comments that their ability to solicit feedback and give input into the policy was knowingly limited by the choice of meeting dates, that the advisory committee was advised of this conflict and the problems it posed before the committee began its work.

MCCPTA is still hopeful that another day of the month could be selected for these meetings so that our 52,000 members can be fully represented on this advisory group.

Sincerely,

Jane de Winter

Cc Dr. Frieda Lacey
Ms Nancy Navarro
Ms Sharon Cox
Mr. Steve Bedford
Ms Kay Romero