

MCCPTA Press Release  
April 24, 2009

As part of the effort to advocate for state and local funding for Montgomery County schools, MCCPTA and Senator Jennie Forehand hosted a visit from Maryland's Comptroller, Peter Franchot at Gaithersburg High School on Wednesday, April 22<sup>nd</sup>. Gaithersburg served as an example of the need to continue funding modernizations of schools throughout the county in order to maintain the high quality education for which Montgomery County is known.

Having seen the positive effect that capital improvements have made on our schools during a previous visit to Montgomery County, Mr. Franchot took this opportunity to speak with students and to tour one of the many schools still in need of construction funding. MCCPTA feels that it is important for the members of the Board of Public Works (of which Mr. Franchot is a member) to see and understand school building needs and their impact on students before making decisions about construction funding. School visits give those members the chance to see what has been accomplished so far and what is needed for the future.

In recent years, Montgomery County's school construction needs have significantly outpaced state school construction aid allotted from the state. Outdated state reimbursement rules make large portions of the county's requests ineligible and many requests are deferred for several years while awaiting sufficient state funds. Currently, only about one-third of the county's requests are funded by the state. As a result, many school construction projects eligible for state funding are forward-funded by the county and others are delayed due to insufficient bond capacity.

MCCPTA recognizes all that this Administration has already done for the schools. We count on the continuing collaborative efforts of state and county in funding, to ensure that our students are learning in safe, well-designed buildings that are able to accommodate both our growing enrollment and Maryland's high educational standards.

In addition to Mr. Franchot, tour attendees included Senator Jennie Forehand, Delegate Jim Gilchrist, MCCPTA President Kay Romero, Board of Education Member Laura Berthiaume, MCPS ITV Operations Manager Chris Cram, MCCPTA VP Legislation Rebecca Smondrowski, Community Superintendent Adrian Talley, Gaithersburg HS Principal Dr. Christine Handy-Collins, MCCPTA Cluster Coordinators Steve Augustino and Valerie Rivers, Gaithersburg PTSA President Laurie Augustino, and Gaithersburg PTSA VP Deanna Duff .

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