



The Montgomery County Council of Parent-Teacher Associations

Press Release 10/1/09

The Montgomery County Council of PTAs (MCCPTA) advocacy on behalf of children is in full swing for the 2009-10 school year.

Before the new school year had even officially begun for students, the Montgomery County Council of PTAs (MCCPTA) was already at work: advocating on behalf of students and their families, participating in meetings and community forums, helping local PTAs with membership drives, updating bylaws and managing the other details of running a small nonprofit organization

As in previous years, MCCPTA began the 2009-10 school year by identifying priorities and goals for the coming year based on a series of meetings that officers of MCCPTA held over the summer with local PTAs. Among the areas of highest concern were Capital Improvement Projects (CIP) proposed by Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS), particularly possible delays in the school modernization schedule, infrastructure maintenance and overcrowding. Other areas of high interest for MCCPTA include the development of the mathematics curriculum, use of the "Seven Keys" strategy to put students on the path to college readiness, support for children in the IB Middle Years Program and the integration of Promethean boards into the curriculum, Gifted and Talented programs, earning high school credit in middle school for foreign language classes, and the middle school curriculum.

Standing committees such as CIP, Operating Budget, Communications, Training and Safety are already hard at work. The CIP and Operating Budget committees in particular help prepare cluster coordinators and others to testify on behalf of their clusters before the Board of Education and the County Council. Testimony will begin in November and continuing into the spring. Other committees and the officers of MCCPTA carry out their mandates by researching their areas of interest and by being available to meet with MCPS officials and the community to share ideas and discuss issues. MCCPTA president Kay Romero participated in the September 15 town hall meeting with Education Secretary Arne Duncan. She has also commented to the press on falling graduation rates in Montgomery County high schools, testified before the Board of Education on the question of allowing parental access to the principals' handbook, and spoken at the Board of Education's Community forum at Quince Orchard High School on September 17. MCCPTA offered testimony before the County Council on September 22 on the County's proposed growth policy. MCCPTA monitors local, county and state discussions to keep school communities informed about issues that may affect them.

The Montgomery County Council of Parent Teacher Associations serves 191 local PT(S)As and their over 50,000 members -- parents, teachers and others 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;
- and to encourage parent and public involvement in the public schools of the nation.

PTA membership is not limited to parents, teachers and students, but is open to anyone interested in joining. If you wish to be a voice for children, contact a school near you and ask to join its PTA! Visit the MCCPTA website at www.mccpta.com to read about the different ways that MCCPTA advocates on behalf of children.