

September 2017 – MCCPTA President's Report

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Overview

*The summer was very busy for MCCPTA, but the school year has energized our work as MCCPTA committees swing into gear. We're closely following the operationalizing of the new MyMCPS, new ES report cards, school safety and security report follow-up, the consultant's report on the future of CTE in MCPS, the work of the Kirwan Commission**, the new Key Facilities Indicators and process for prioritizing CIP projects, and the county council's annual work to establish Spending Affordability Guidelines as we move into the annual budget cycle. The bylaws committee is working on a complete review and revision of our bylaws, we continue to operate in a fiscally conservative manner as we await the resolution of the investigation into the FY2017 embezzlement from MCCPTA. We hope to begin the process of hiring an office manager very soon. Our Fall Training on Sept. 16 was a big success, nearly 200 PTA leaders from across the county met, received essential training, had great opportunities to share ideas and best practices with PTA colleagues, and discussed all manner of issues of concern and interest.*

Meetings/Events attended

September:

- 6 – MCCPTA BOD & exec. Comm .
- 11 – Operating Budget Steering Committee mtg
- 12 – BOE meeting – release of CTE report
- 16 - MCCPTA Fall Training
- 18 – meeting- Family Justice Center
- 19 – Operating Budget Steering Comm
- 26 – Operating Budget Steering Comm.
- 26 – September Delegates' Assembly
- 27 – meeting with Dr. Erick Lang – CTE

Projects/Issues

October is Domestic Violence Prevention month, and the Family Justice Center is partnering with MCPS to provide programming and information on this important topic throughout the month. MCCPTA is supporting that work, and encouraging connections between our local PTAs and the youth-focused work of the Family Justice Center.

We are also working to finalize our germane advocacy priorities for the year, join others in our school community and Montgomery County in supporting our undocumented families and Dreamers, and reconsider and streamline our committee structure. Following the work of the Kirwan Commission, and preparing to participate in the upcoming public meetings, is also part of our ongoing work.

The superintendent will release his CIP proposal on Oct. 23. Discussion around the 2018-19 school calendar is already in high gear, and causing concern and conversation in the MCCPTA community. MCCPTA's officers and committee members are working to keep MCCPTA informed about both ongoing issues, and new issues that emerge.

Kirwan:

The Kirwan commission has been meeting for over a year now, to evaluate Maryland's public school funding methods, and identify areas in which our schools need to innovate in order to serve our students better.

Policy recommendations likely to emerge in the final report go to drastically increasing the quality and availability of pre-K state-wide, and innovative ways to further professionalize the teacher workforce. The Commission is closely looking at states whose students outperform Maryland - Massachusetts, New Jersey and New Hampshire --- and also countries who spend less per student on education, but whose students appear to outperform US students.

The Commission scheduled a series of four public meetings in September and October:

Sept. 14 – Stevensville

Oct. 12 - Baltimore

Sept. 28 – Frederick

Oct. 25 – Upper Marlboro

There has been little publicity around these meetings, and the first two meetings were sparsely attended. MCCPTA intends to be a presence at the last two meetings. We will share the details of each meeting and encourage PTAers to attend, sign-up to testify, listen, and learn. We will continue to watch the Commission meetings closely, staying in touch with our Montgomery County representatives on the Commission, in order to understand what the Commission is likely recommend, so that our advocacy can be nimble and proactive

Committee needs:

I have included in the materials for this BOD meeting a proposal for a slightly revised committee structure, eliminating a few committees that have gone inactive, combining a few, renaming one. After reviewing all of the currently listed committees, and as much history about their creation and work as I can find, I think we can probably make more use of ad hoc committees going forward – instead of creating new committees that – after the initial bout of energy and enthusiasm, lie dormant.

We've done a great job recruiting MCCPTA committee members and committee chairs, but we still need some crucial committee Chairs. Among them – advocacy, ESOL, multicultural awareness/engagement, Principals and presidents event.