

## MCCPTA Curriculum Committee 2016-2017 End-of-Year Report

Chair: Tammy Clark [clark\\_9301@verizon.net](mailto:clark_9301@verizon.net)  
Subcommittee Chairs: Amanda Graver – Elementary  
Cynthia Simonson – High School

Proposed 2016-17 budget: \$200 Actual funds spent: \$ 0

**Goals:** The MCCPTA Curriculum Committee serves as a liaison between MCPS parents and MCPS curriculum staff, sharing information from MCPS curriculum staff with parents and sharing parental concerns, issues and questions with MCPS curriculum staff. The Curriculum Committee acts as an advocate for curriculum issues of concern to MCPS parents, students and teachers.

**Budget:** We requested a budget of \$200 for ICB room reservation fees, but did not need to pay for room reservations this year. In past years, our committee has paid for room fees for Curriculum Information Nights. Science Curriculum Night was the only event we co-sponsored this year, and MCPS covered all the associated expenses.

**Events & Activities:** Our committee members attended regularly scheduled meetings with Erick Lang, the Associate Superintendent of Curriculum and Instructional Programs (OCIP), Scott Murphy, the Director of the Department of Secondary Curriculum and Districtwide Programs, Niki Hazel, the Director of the Department of Elementary Curriculum and Districtwide Programs, and Ben OuYang, the Director of the Department of Career Readiness and Innovative Programs. Our committee creates and oversees the agenda for these meetings. The topics and issues discussed during each meeting were shared in our monthly committee reports to the Board of Directors/Delegates Assembly.

MCPS and MCCPTA Curriculum Committee co-sponsored a county-wide *Science Curriculum Parent Information Night* on March 20<sup>th</sup>. Curriculum staff and teachers presented information on the shift that is occurring with the adaptation of Next Generation Science Standards. The Curriculum Committee assisted with the promotion of this event via our listservs, Delegates Assembly and local PTAs. Although the event was successful as far as attendance of parents and students, we felt that there was little curriculum information shared. A detailed review of this event is included in the April report.

**Current Curriculum Issues worth following:** The following curriculum-related topics and concerns were discussed with OCIP and continue to be worthy of our attention and follow up with MCPS staff, teachers, parents and students.

- **RQAs** – Regular Quarterly Assessments: We have discussed RQAs multiple times through-out the year. This was the first year of implementation of RQAs instead of finals for high school credit courses. Any high school credit course which had had an MCPS written final exam, now administers RQAs, 1 per marking period. Teachers, students and parents continue to raise concerns about how these assessments are administered, and whether or not the graded assessments are

available for students to take home in a timely manner. Teachers and parents are also concerned as to whether students are being adequately prepared for cumulative exams which will be encountered in college. MCPS is aware of the “bumps” encountered in rolling out these assessments, and is continuing its review and making changes as necessary. Of course, any changes now must take into account proposed state legislation – Education - Accountability Program Assessments.

- **Proposed House Bill 461 or Senate Bill 452** (Education – Accountability Program – Assessments [More Learning, Less Testing Act of 2017]) would require all school districts to limit the total time allotted for all state and local BOE mandated assessments to 2.2% of a student’s total learning hours per school year. This legislation is likely to pass and become effective on July 1, 2017. The limit applies only to required assessments by local school boards (MCPS) and those required by Maryland Department of Education. This does not apply to IB, AP exams, SAT/ACT or teacher-created assessments.  
MCPS has no control over the state mandated assessments of PARCC, HSAs (High School Assessments) and MISA (Maryland Integrated Science Assessment.) This will impact all MCPS created/mandated assessments, including RQAs. MCPS staff have been and will continue to evaluate how to accommodate the reduction of mandated assessments for the 2017-18 school year. The committee will be updated as to assessment changes at our meeting with OCIP on June 6<sup>th</sup>.
- **Mathematics** – We continue to emphasize the need to pay attention to changes in math at all 3 levels:  
*Elementary:* follow up with results from changing how students are identified and included in Compacted (accelerated) Math 4/5 & 5/6. ) The number of students identified for CM 4/5 doubled – from 2000 in 2015/16 to 4000 in 2016/17. See April report for details.  
*Middle school:* follow up with the trend towards eliminating Math 7 and Math 8, in favor of having all students take 7 IM by 7<sup>th</sup> grade, and Algebra I by 8<sup>th</sup> grade. The decision as to which courses to offer is local – each school decides. We need to understand which factors are considered when making these changes, and how it is impacting student performance. This is happening at more schools for next year. Please see the May report for details.  
*High school:* follow up with the trend to eliminate on-grade-level Geometry and offer Honors Geometry for all students. We would like OCIP to identify all high schools which are making this change.

**Honors or Advanced courses in Middle & High school** – We need to pay attention to the trend of one-size-fits all courses. Many middle schools have been offering only Advanced level courses in English, Science and Social Studies for the last few years. Some high schools

have begun eliminating grade level course in science, social studies and English. This leave students with the choice of taking Honors or AP level, if available. We need to follow up with schools and their student performance when given these options. We also would like a better understanding of which schools are making this changes and why.

**Areas for Improvement/Change** – The committee needs to improve its communication with local PTAs and parents across the county. The President and Delegate listservs are great for announcing events and providing specific information, but are not ideal for parents with a vast array of curriculum-related questions and concerns. The committee is considering re-activating the Curriculum listserv, although it requires a moderator and would be limited by the members who are invited to join. We also need to be more accessible to PTA members who are encountering issues at their local schools. It is difficult to speak as one voice, when we don't hear the questions being raised.

**Summer plans-** The Curriculum Committee will continue to answer questions and keep track of issues which need to be addressed with OCIP. We will identify and prioritize the curriculum-related issues to be discussed next year. We plan to continue with subcommittees for Elementary, Middle and High school curriculum. We will identify members who are interested and able to chair these subcommittees.