**MCCPTA Health and Wellness Committee**

**September 2020 Report**

**First Environmental Health Subcommittee Meeting: September 21**

* Goals for the year
  + Focus on COVID-19 related environmental health issues in this order
    - Safer cleaning, sanitizing, and disinfecting
    - Indoor air quality (IAQ), HVAC, flushing, tracking (testing by outside company, providing publicly available data that is sent to us)
    - Water quality
    - Adequate PPE for students and staff
    - Hand washing hygiene routines and infrastructure
    - Discuss school access to testing for COVID-19 as part of reopening with Dr. Gayles
* Strategize advocacy efforts and outreach to MCPS families, MCPS clusters, MCPS officials, Councilmembers, State legislature
  + Councilmember Tom Hucker
    - Ask for advice on next steps
  + Seth Adams, MCPS Director of the Dept. of Facilities Management
    - Lynne Zarate, Director of Division of Maintenance
    - IAQ Teams leader
  + Other ideas
    - Dr. Gayles
    - BOE-
  + Survey of delegates e-list to get an idea of what schools are doing to prepare for reopening
* Established regular subcommittee meeting time
  + Meetings 3rd Monday of the month at 9pm
* Actions items:
  + Hannah-subcommittee drafted survey questions on air and water quality, safer disinfecting, sanitizing, and cleaning, and outdoor classroom space to send to delegates e-lists
    - Subcommittee reviewed and Jeremy Good is developing survey to collect statistics
    - Hannah will email to e-delegates when survey is completed
  + Hannah-sent email to Tom Hucker and cc’ed Jill Ortman-Fouse
  + Hannah sent email to Seth Adams asking for a meeting and cc’ed Laura Stewart
  + Subcommittee drafted a list of questions for MCPS facilities

Mental Health Subcommittee

* Helga Luest is new subcommittee chair
  + Discussed ideas for the year including incorporating the arts into mental health work
* Helga, Laura, and Hannah met with Christina Conolly, MCPS
  + researched and worked on video for MCPS

Nutrition Subcommittee

* Held monthly meeting:
  + Notes:
    - Lynn’s general sense is that our group is a balanced mix of advocates, direct service people, and those who do both. There was general agreement that the function of our group could serve to assist in improving communication between MCPS and other providers and those who need it, and advocacy to help ensure we increase the availability of food. She is happy to connect people who would like to participate in food delivery to families with organizations that are currently serving in this capacity, as well as connect people who might like to do these activities together.
    - **She provided a short update on the resources** currently available, and the progress we have made with DFNS (Department of Food and Nutrition Services) that we have made so far. Fania and others have pointed out that it really is in the best interests of DFNS to provide as many meals as possible, because those reimbursements pay for the staff as well as the meals that are being provided.
    - **DFNS has expanded some sites**, in part due to a ongoing conversation with MCCPTA leadership.. namely Cynthia Simonson (MCCPTA President) and Tracie Potts (VP of Admin, and Family Engagement). Tracie is collecting information on families who are not being served by the current setup but need and want access to school meals. If you know of families in need, please let Tracie know about those so she can add them to her list.
    - **In an effort to move our advocacy forward,** **the MCCPTA in conjunction with Healthy School Foods Maryland and other advocates, i**s **working on a letter with specific asks of our school lunch provider.** Currently the numbers of students receiving meals is still pretty abysmal. According to its own report, DFNS is only providing enough meals on a weekly bases to feed one meal to about 20 percent of the population that we know is FARMS eligible. This does not account for anyone who would be eligible or just needs meals due to the pandemic. This letter is an outgrowth of current advocacy and our Friday meeting. Please feel free to provide feedback. The intention is to send these asks to the BOE, DFNS, and the County Council.
    - **From the letter in progress, here are our three asks:**
      * Expand the time window that families can pick up meals from 11-1 at most sites to at least 1 morning pickup (7 am -9 am) and 1 evening pickup (5 – 7 or 6-8 pm) per week;
      * Open more pickup sites than the 74 (of 208) sites that are currently open at MCPS schools; consider adding non-MCPS locations in addition to the 10+ bus stops that have been added (apartment complexes, community centers, more bus stops);
      * Allow families to pickup multiple days’ worth of meals; Thursday’s meals are already bundled with Wednesday’s meals; allow families to pick-up 5 – 7 days’ worth of meals in one bundle
* Action items:
  + Lynn attended a presentation on Monday by No Kid Hungry and DHS about the rate of food insecurity in our Middle and HS students.
  + Lynn attended meeting on October 8 that the Food Council is hosting a meeting on Everything you Want to Know about SNAP (Food stamps).

Substance Use Committee

* Developed ppt and video for MCPS Mental Health Week