**Report of School Climate & Safety Committee Submitted by: Rob Wilcox**

 **November 12, 2020 \_ \_ climateandsafety@mccpta.org**

**Since October 1 -- Meetings/Calls/Events:**

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| 10/510/1310/22 | Board of Education discussion of SROsSRO Working Group MeetingBoard of Education Policy Committee meeting on school safety |
| 11/9 | SRO Working Group Meeting |
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 **Top Activities/Concerns:**

1. **SRO Working Group –** The SRO Working Group has continued to meet to discuss the SRO program.

On October 5, the Board received information on SRO activity in schools. The Board requested this presentation in its initial resolution. Data showed presented showed that 460 students were arrested in the past three school years throughout MCPS. Of those arrests, 382 (83%) were of Black and Hispanic students. Eleven percent of arrests were of white students during the same time period. MCPS’ student population is about 27% white, 21% Black and 32% Hispanic, according to MCPS data. Each of the years for which data were provided showed a decrease in the number of overall arrests. During the 2017-18 school year, there were 226 student arrests, compared to 163 in 2018-19 and 77 in 2019-20. Students were most commonly arrested for possessing drugs or weapons and for attacking other students, according to the data. The data were not broken down by school. The Bethesda Beat wrote up and provided succinct recap -- <https://bethesdamagazine.com/bethesda-beat/schools/high-school-principals-support-keeping-sros-school-district-says/>

The October Working Group meeting focused on reviewing the Memorandum of Understanding between MCPS and law enforcement and proposing suggestion to the various sections. Suggestions were offered for nearly every section and a revised version will be circulated before the next meeting, scheduled for later in Oct. One suggestion explicitly as about have PTA cluster reps participate in the hiring process.

The November Working Group meetings began with a 40 minute presentation from a GA judge who was presented as a national leader in reducing the school to prison pipeline. The Judge explained the program they put in place in his county – a Justice-School partnership – and presented data on the dramatic reductions in the arrests with accompanying increased academic performance. The rest of the meeting was spent in small groups discussing whether MCPS needed the SRO program, what a reasonable alternative would be, and discussing other outstanding questions.

The next meetings are scheduled for December 1 and 15. The Working Group is to provide recommendation to the board in January.

Rob met with the DEI committee to discuss SROs. Note that MCCPTA has an active resolution on SROs passed in 2010 that calls for 1 SRO per school -- <http://nebula.wsimg.com/ecdf250cd5091a67c24666ee731e3e66?AccessKeyId=AB71C8A62DC88BF7171E&disposition=0&alloworigin=1>

1. **Gun Violence Prevention Resolution –** The MCPS Board of Education Policy Committee met to discuss gun violence prevention at its October 22 meeting. The Director for Governance, Policy, and Community Relations reached out to MCCPTA to tell us that they will be discussing our 2019 resolution along with the resolutions submitted by MCR and Moms Demand Action. Each organization submitted short videos (no longer than 10 minutes) outlining their priorities. Rob Wilcox submitted testimony that was first reviewed by the MCCPTA president.

MCPS staff examined the resolutions and presented on current MCPS policy or program meeting the mark and where MCPS could bolster its efforts. The Committee discussed and appeared to credit the MCPS staff presentations. The Committee indicated there may be some additional work to do, but did not seem poised to act.