

From: Sunil Dasgupta, Chair, Health and Safety Committee
To: MCCPTA Board of Directors
Sub: Health and Safety Committee Monthly Report
Date: 2018-02-01

This report is divided into parts. The first addresses H&S Committee as a whole. This is followed by subcommittee reports.

H&S Committee

1. MCCPTA Health and Safety listserv now has 70 members.
2. On 1/12, we stood up a Mental Health and Wellness Subcommittee and convened a meeting to organize the Mental Health and Wellness Forum scheduled for April 22, 1-5 pm, at Gaithersburg High School.
3. Budget request to MCCPTA BOD for the Mental Health and Wellness Forum: \$2,500.
4. The Health and Safety Committee had its third monthly meeting with MCPS 01/29. The discussion was wide-ranging, with school climate issues and health and PE curriculum taking up most of the time. MCPS has almost finalized the recovery school with an agreement with Family Services Inc to use their facilities at The Landing. The school will take 30 students Tuesdays through Saturdays, with individual students going three days a week. The effort is to broaden the eligibility for the school to include students beyond the traditional recovery stage.

School Nutrition Committee

On January 23, the school nutrition committee met with DFNS Director Susan McCarron and DFNS Assistant Director Barbara Harral. We were given a tour of the central facility and then had a discussion about a variety of topics, including steps toward greater variety and more ethnic dishes on the menu, how to effectively serve salad to elementary school students, ways to ensure kids' have fruits and veggies on their trays, and how MCCPTA can help share DFNS news with parents. The committee plans to schedule another meeting with Ms. McCarron, which likely will be in March or early April. If anyone would like to join the committee, please contact nutrition@mccpta.org.

Safe Technology

The big news on our front is the release of the jointly-produced Safe Tech Best Practices — in collaboration with the MCPS Office of the CTO. The document is on the newly-minted Safe Tech webpage: <http://www.mccpta.org/safe-technology.html>. MCPS CTO Pete Cevenini issued the document for system-wide distribution.

We have also developed a relationship with MCPS's Dr. Elizabeth Rathbone in the Office of Student and Family Support and Engagement. She gave us the name of a speaker for the Mental Health Forum and we have exchanged like-minded messages about the importance of teaching digital smarts. We have lined up Vincent DeVivo of the U.S. Attorney General's office to speak at the Mental Health Forum April 22, 2018. His program is entitled "Stolen Innocence."

Held subcommittee meeting on 01/31.

School Climate

Gillian Huebner on Kojo Namdi Show 2/1, speaking on “sexting”:

<https://thekojonnamdishow.org/shows/2018-02-01/how-young-to-too-young-to-warn-of-sexting-dangers-a-montgomery-county-middle-school-finds-out>