

November 2017 – MCCPTA President's Report

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Overview – The work of MCCPTA continues, and I remain impressed with, and grateful for, the work and engagement of so many terrific volunteers. Our committee work – CIP, Operating Budget, Health and Safety, Curriculum, Gifted and Talented, Membership and Engagement, Bylaws, Training, Advocacy, Reflections, Special Education – all continue running in high gear. A slate of Nominating Committee members has been identified, so that committee can be voted on. The final CIP recommendation was approved by the Board of Education, as was a resolution of the elementary school boundary changes in the RM Cluster with the opening of the new RMES #5 next Fall – both processes involving tremendous levels of parent, student and community advocacy. Next we will turn our attention to the Operating Budget process. Dr. Smith will release his FY19 Operating Budget proposal on Dec. 19.

With the Nov. 17 plea hearing, during which Lisa Betts plead guilty to embezzlement of nearly \$40,000 from MCCPTA during the period of time from July 1, 2016 through approx. March 26, 2017 – the financial difficulties occurring within MCCPTA last year are nearing resolution. I am working with the PTA leadership at Greencastle ES and Banneker MS to prepare an accurate Victim's Impact Statement for presentation to Judge Boynton in advance of Lisa Betts' January 17 sentencing hearing. A full VIS will be submitted to the court well in advance, and a truncated statement will be made in open court on 1/17.

Simultaneously, the process of recovery through MCCPTA's insurance is nearly complete – we expect to receive a check for \$28,100 in the near future. The work of our MCCPTA audit team last April revealed that, soon after the Feb. 2, 2017 MCCPTA BOD meeting – where concerns about MCCPTA's finances were publicly raised (suspicions raised based upon the Officer's reports presented at the Jan. 24 Delegates Assembly having been previously discussed on the BOD listserv, including a request that Ms. Betts bring all of MCCPTA's account records for the fiscal year to the Feb. 2 BOD for inspection) Ms. Betts began the process of making unexplained deposits – via checks written on her personal checking account – back into the MCCPTA account. Between Feb. 9 and March 15, 2017 Lisa Betts wrote three checks to MCCPTA, in total depositing \$10,106 dollars into MCCPTA's Eagle Bank account.

Because Ms. Betts has failed to cooperate with Banneker and Greencastle, their work to recreate the financial records from Ms. Betts' time serving as president and/or treasurer for those PT(S)As has been laborious. This process is particularly complicated at Greencastle where Ms. Betts served was a signatory and primary controller of the PTA bank account continuously for six years, yet has failed to provide the financial records of those years to current leadership.

The MCCPTA Executive Committee – after receiving a large volume of commentary from individuals in the Richard Montgomery HS Cluster – provided a statement to the Board of Education regarding the boundary assignment process for the RM Cluster elementary schools with the opening of the new RMES #5 next Fall. While not taking a position on the actual boundary determination, MCCPTA spoke to the need to follow the MCPS-proscribed process in which the Boundary Advisory Group participated, and to give full weight to community input relating to the impacts of boundaries on parent engagement.

Meetings/Events attended

November:

- 1- Conference call with OAS re: MCCPTA data request/graduation readiness reports
- 1- MCCPTA Nov. BOD
- 6- BOE CIP hearing #1
- 8 – BOE CIP hearing #2

- 13 – Meeting with Del. Bonnie Cullison, Del. Marice Morales and Sen. Roger Manno re: education priorities in 2018 General Assembly session
- 13 – Montgomery County General Assembly Delegation Priorities Hearing (for 2018 Session)
- 17 – Plea hearing – Lisa Betts embezzlement form MCCPTA
- 20 – meeting with General Assembly delegation
- 27 – meeting with Sen. Will Smith re: 2018 General Assembly Education priorities
- 28 – November Delegates' Assembly

Upcoming Issues – now that the Board of Education has released its CIP recommendations to the County Council, MCCPTA moves into Operating budget season. The superintendent releases his FY2019 Operating Budget proposal on Dec. 19