**MCCPTA Vice President for Education report 2020-21 (Sept. 9 Board of Directors)**

By Rodney Peele

**Activities (since Aug. 18)**

MCPS grading and reporting work group (August 20)

MCCPTA Board of Directors (August 20)

MCPS Board of Education (August 25)

MCCPTA Curriculum Committee meeting with MCPS OCIP (August 26)

Julius West MS parent information (August 26)

Richard Montgomery HS parent information (August 26)

MD Board of Education (September 1)

Richard Montgomery HS PTSA (September 1)

**Broad Topics**

Fall virtual learning approved by MCPS Board of Education August 25

State law requires 180 days of school and 1080 hours (6 hours a day, 30 hours a week). The state is counting synchronous (live) and asynchronous (not live) hours among the 1080; see slides 5-6 in the following link for what is counted as synchronous or asynchronous. According to the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE), MCPS is offering 23.88 hours/week for pre-K to 5, and 22 hours for grades 6-12.

<http://marylandpublicschools.org/stateboard/Documents/2020/0901/Maryland-Recovery-Plan-Education-Student-Engagement.pdf>

The MD State Board of Education voted to require locals (read: MCPS) provide 3.5 hours synchronous instruction a day (average across grades K-12) before the end of the calendar year. MCPS might be meeting this already (MSDE chart says: 4.75 for pre-K to grades 2, and 4.00 average for everyone else for 4 days a week, and 18-21.38 per week) if they mean average per day across a week, but seemingly not if they mean minimum 3.5 hours per day. The state board also requires locals not planning to reopen until second semester (such as MCPS, second semester, Feb. 1) to reevaluate opening buildings and offering in-person learning, with a report due to MSDE before Thanksgiving.

<http://marylandpublicschools.org/stateboard/Documents/2020/0901/MSDE_Student_Engagement_Adopted_9.1.2020.pdf>

**Curriculum –**

Course load:

* MCCPTA continues to express grave concerns about curriculum expectations in virtual learning environment. MCPS has provided schools (but not parents) guidance on reducing course loads for students on track to graduate.

Curriculum modifications:

* MCPS is modifying content and assessments but not clear what those changes are, considering MSDE expects all “required” content to be taught.

MAP Testing for all grades this fall:

* MSDE requires all local school districts to administer a fall diagnostic assessment in math and literacy to students in kindergarten through 12th grade to inform instruction, recovery and intervention and account for learning loss, as well as determine the present performance levels of students on math and literacy standards. MCPS will administer the Measures of Academic Progress (MAP) assessment as this fall diagnostic virtually during September and early October. Schools will have flexibility in scheduling the specific days and times for administration. Additionally, MCPS will use MAP Reading Fluency (MAP-RF) for universal screening of all Kindergarten and Grade 1 students to determine potential for reading difficulties. <https://news.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/quicknotes/administration-of-map-assessment-for-grades-k-12/>
* US Department of Education also announced September 3 that states are expected to administer summative assessments during 20-21 school year, and that waivers granted in spring 2020 are unlikely to be granted again.

SAT Testing:

* MCPS still working to administer the September 26 and October 3 SAT in a small number of MCPS high school test centers. MCPS is also hoping for school day testing in October (14 or 28). <https://news.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/quicknotes/update-on-fall-sat-and-act-administrations/>
* Also see: <https://pages.collegeboard.org/sat-covid-19-updates>

International Baccalaureate:

* The IB international organization announced there will be “adaptions” for May 2021 testing to each subject group and area in the DP and CP, including amendments to assessment components and requirements, removal of components or requirements, and/or the use of in-session mitigations.

<https://www.ibo.org/news/news-about-the-ib/covid-19-coronavirus-updates/>

Saturday School:

* MCPS offering tutoring (reading, language arts, math, ESOL), college application assistance, and SAT/ACT prep on Saturday mornings.

**ESOL –**

Working on programs with MCPS

**Special Education** –

MCPS Board of Education held special education town hall on August 27

**Gifted Child** –

Investigating and advocating for MS math pathways

MCPS sued for MS magnet selection process changes implemented in 2017