**MCCPTA Vice President for Education report 2020-21 (October 14 Board of Directors)**

By Rodney Peele

**Activities (since September 8)**

MCPS Curriculum Recovery team (September 9)

MCCPTA Board of Directors (September 9)

MCPS Board of Education (September 10)

MCCPTA ESOL (September 15)

Julius West MS PTSA (September 15)

Richard Montgomery HS Back to School Night (September 16)

MCCPTA Delegates Assembly (September 22)

MCCPTA Executive Committee meeting with Superintendent Smith (September 23)

MCCPTA Curriculum Committee meeting with MCPS OCIP (September 30)

MCCPTA LSAAG (October 5)

MCPS Grading and Reporting Workgroup (October 8)

MCCPTA Executive Committee (October 8)

**Updates:**

Course load:

* MCPS shared the deceptively titled “Request for Approval for Part-Time Secondary Schedule” form, newly updated (August 2020 version). This is the form to request a reduced courseload in secondary schools (MS and HS). To my knowledge, MCPS has still not widely shared or explained the option to request fewer courses while school is virtual. MCPS did tell schools that traditional thresholds for reductions should be relaxed during pandemic. Previously, the form was primarily for grades 11/12, and often work related.
* MCPS expects secondary students to spend 30 minutes per day per class outside of the two live class sessions per week (10 ½ hours per week for 7 classes, combined).

SAT Testing:

* MCPS schools participated in SAT testing: 11 schools, 1400 students on Sept. 26 and 13 schools, 2000 students on Oct. 3.
* MCPS still considering whether to administer in-school SAT for 12th graders on Oct. 27 and/or PSAT on January 26 for 11th graders.
* Also see: <https://pages.collegeboard.org/sat-covid-19-updates>

Return to classes in school buildings:

* MCPS issued “45-day notice” to teachers on Sept. 25 that planning for students to return to buildings has started.
* MCPS has indicated that Special Education students may be the first group brought in to school buildings.
* As of Friday Oct. 2, MCPS had 1,581 students who had not participated in virtual learning. More than half of those students are Hispanic.

MSDE requirement for 3.5 hours/day synchronous instruction:

* MCPS mostly in compliance but might make a small tweak to school day schedules later in 2020.

**Notes:**

* MCPS working on GT identification, screening all 2nd, 3rd, 5th, and maybe 7th grade students, using pre-COVID-19 data.
* Lucy V. Barnsley ES named national Blue Ribbon School
* HS regional/choice program information meetings and open houses being held this month. Applications due November 6.
* MCPS Board of Education finalized revisions to school transfer policy JEE on October 6.
* 60% of teens say online learning is worse than in-person learning, and nearly 20% say it’s much worse. (Common Sense Media survey of 890 teens, Aug. 20-27, as reported Sept. 18 by Education Week.)
* CDC issued updated chart (Sept. 15) on risk of spreading virus in schools:

 <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/indicators.html#thresholds>

* CDC issued report (Sept. 28) on COVID-19 trends among school-aged children:

<https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/69/wr/mm6939e2.htm>