

October 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. We passed a resolution in support of our undocumented students and families, we passed our advocacy priorities, Sook Seo and the Communications team completed our first every electronic BlueBook, as well as produced the print edition. Our committee work – CIP, Health and Safety, Curriculum, Gifted and Talented, Membership and Engagement, Bylaws, Training, Advocacy, Reflections, Special Education – all continue running in high gear. The Training committee produced another great training in September. Now that the MCPS CIP recommendations are out, we move full-steam ahead into BOE hearings. Our November DA will highlight great work being done in our schools and community to combat hate speech, and ensure that all our schools are places in which every student feels safe, valued, and respected for being exactly who they are. That’s some of the great ongoing work of MCCPTA – we also continue to work to bring last year’s financial and other difficulties to a close – we are one step closer with the filing of embezzlement charges against MCCPTA’s former treasurer, Lisa Betts.

Meetings/Events attended

October:

- 2 – Operating Budget Steering Committee
- 2- MCCPTA Exec. Committee Meeting with Dr. Smith
- 3 – Meeting with Cashell ES PTA
- 5 - MCCPTA BOD & exec. Comm
- 7 – Communities United Against Hate conference – Plenary panel participant
- 9 – Operating Budget Steering Committee mtg
- 12 – Meeting with Dr. Statham – Dep. Sup - OSSI
- 13 – Conference call – Kirwan Commission follow-up
- 15- Conference call – CUAH steering committee
- 17 – Operating Budget Steering Comm
- 18 – Galway Lions ES PTA founding meeting
- 21 – MDPTA Board of Directors Meeting and Boardmanship training
- 22- Communities United Against Hate conference – Student Initiatives panel - facilitator
- 23 – Operating Budget Steering Comm.
- 23 – Board of Education meeting – release of FY19 CIP recommendations
- 24 – Advocacy meeting – Dr. Smith
- 24 – October Delegates’ Assembly
- 25 – MCCPTA BOD Annual meeting with the BOE
- 26 – Discussion with Asst. State’s Attorney – filing of charges in MCCPTA embezzlement
- 30 – MCCPTA Exec. Comm. Briefing from MoCo Parks and Planning commission – schools and growth
- 30 – Meeting with Asst. State’s Attorney – proceedings in MCCPTA embezzlement prosecution
- 30 – MCCPTA CIP testimony workshop

Projects/Issues

November kicks MCCPTA’s work on CIP advocacy into high gear, and we will work to ensure all of our clusters have the information and support they need to speak to the infrastructure and capacity issues of their schools. We will also continue to partner with MCPS to ensure everyone understands the new Key Facilities Indicators – which will inform the assessment of ALL MCPS schools, and the new process for identifying CIP project priorities. This month we will also focus

on ensuring all of our school communities are aware of the work to increase understanding and combat hate going on in our schools and communities – by community partners, MCPS divisions and student led initiatives. A goal is to ensure all schools have contacts and resources to start, grow, or continue the important work of making every MCPS student feel safe, valued and respected.

MCCPTA will also continue to work with MCPS to dig into the data reported on graduation 'college ready' criterion – as defined by the University System of Maryland – to see if there are patterns re: students receiving “D”s in core credits – by course, cluster, course sequence etc. – to see if that information provides information on how to better support students.

Kirwan:

The Kirwan commission has been meeting for over a year now, to evaluate Maryland's public school funding methods, and identify areas in which our schools need to innovate in order to serve our students better.

Policy recommendations likely to emerge in the final report go to drastically increasing the quality and availability of pre-K state-wide, and innovative ways to further professionalize the teacher workforce. The Commission is closely looking at states whose students outperform Maryland - Massachusetts, New Jersey and New Hampshire --- and also countries who spend less per student on education, but whose students appear to outperform US students.

The most current reports from Kirwan attendees and commission members seems to indicate that the Commission's required December report will focus on policy, and may not make funding recommendations, instead recommending that the Commission's work continue into 2018.