

Since November 1-- Meetings/Calls/Events:

- 11/2 Facilities and Boundary Public Hearing
- 11/5 Facilities and Boundary Public Hearing
- 11/5 Recovery Education -- Policy and Regulation Team Discussion
- 11/11 Student Welfare Stakeholders Team Discussion
- 11/12 MCCPTA Board of Directors' Meeting
- 11/16 Deputy Stakeholder Advisory Group -- DSAG
- 11/16 Council Presidents' Meeting with National PTA
- 11/18 Discussion with Black and Brown Leadership – Principal Placements
- 11/18 Teacher Awards – Discussion/Recording Greenblatt Award
- 11/18 Meeting with Chief of Office of Teaching, Learning and Schools
- 11/19 Delegates Assembly
- 11/20 MCCPTA/MCPS Communications Staff Meeting
- 11/25 Metrics – Recording MCCPTA Questions
- 12/1 AVP Discussion – Quarterly Meetings
- 12/2 Excomm Meeting with Superintendent
- 12/2 OCIP Meeting
- 12/2 Excomm Meeting – Prep for Dec BOD
- 12/3 Discussion with Black and Brown Leadership – Principal Placements
- 12/3 Testimony – Board of Education Meeting (Course load at Secondary Level)
- 12/7 Meeting with Derek Turner – Questions on MCPS Metrics
- 12/8 Interview MyMCMedia – School Reopening Concerns
- 12/9 Meeting with Niki Hazel – Course load concerns
- 12/9 AVP Meeting with Area Associate Superintendents – Principal Process; Grading Concerns

Top 10 -- Activities/Concerns:

- 1) **MDPTA Concerns** – Still awaiting news from National on the restructuring of MDPTA.
- 2) **Reopening Schools/Metrics** – During the November BOD meeting (and repeated at the Delegates Assembly), Francesco Paganini provided some clarity for our leaders on why the current metrics being used by MCPS is creating confusion. Francesco recorded the presentation. https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/9mSkvSSaALz3-FjpgmnyvjCMfIOOVeEDsPDnNZBcaP_pNuZh3P6nTyQDHHPEaYBm.UMmPETsLK1DLz3f6 We have shared this link with the BOE and also posted on the elists, FB page, and discussed with Derek Turner. While MCPS is not taking a position on the actual numbers, we are calling for the reopening metrics be accurately and clearly communicated.
- 3) **Donations/Education Foundation** We have partnered with the Education Foundation to support community needs (funneled through our PPWs). Gillian Huebner has been spearheading this effort so please see her report for specifics (but spoiler, it is over \$34K!). <https://www.mcpsfoundation.org/covid-19-gift-card-campaign?fbclid=IwAR0qoj2nqThHPmf0nVEiFaaNy7EqnyRpSItRR0SHq0VTBzmJ53Wm2oUJV2k>
- 4) **CIP Testimony** – On behalf of MCCPTA, I provided testimony at the CIP hearings before the Board of Education on November 5th. My comments centered on the need to ensure programming decisions are not exacerbating capacity concerns and continued MCCPTA's advocacy around maintenance concerns.

[https://go.boarddocs.com/mabe/mcpsmd/Board.nsf/files/BV3JWH4EB463/\\$file/Cynthia%20Simonson%20Written.pdf](https://go.boarddocs.com/mabe/mcpsmd/Board.nsf/files/BV3JWH4EB463/$file/Cynthia%20Simonson%20Written.pdf) and video -- <https://drive.google.com/file/d/15ntjw3tUr9L2TzfNQYykvx9NWI3-ZgbV/view>

- 5) **Recovery Education** – Continued in discussions with the Deputy Superintendent Advisory Group and the Policy and Regulations Design Team feedback/comment on MCPS planning process. In these meetings, I've been specifically advocating for clarity around the special populations (discreet populations) being assessed beginning December 3rd and am watching carefully to ensure that process begins. (It did – whew!) Also continued to participate with the Recovery Education team that is made up of the broader county leaders – County Council, MCPS, Montgomery College, USG, Independent Schools, HHS, etc. on how to best support students going forward.
- 6) **Black and Brown Coalition, Principal Placements** -- Following conversations MCCPTA held last year regarding principal selection process (and timing/role of community/transparency in that selection), I've engaged in discussions recently with the Black and Brown Coalition around the current practice where schools with the highest impacts are often being led by novice leaders (and the less impacted communities have the more experienced leaders). Currently doing some literature research and asking about how other school districts align the needs of the community with the skills of the leadership.
- 7) **Mid-Year Staff Movement** – Engaged with the Chief of Office of Teaching, Learning and Schools (following multiple conversations with the Area Assoc Superintendent) around the current practice of allowing staff to move to other positions within the system mid-year. Some positions are “one of a kind” in a school and a mid-year move, while filling a gap in one school, creates a void in another school. Discussed options and requested additional supports from Central Office, particularly when the school with the new void is a highly impacted school.
- 8) **Appeals Process/Ombudsman** – The theme of our last meeting with the Superintendent centered on the appeals process. We have numerous areas that allow for appeals but little clarity on the process leaving each family that engages in the appeals process to feel they are on their own. Further, there is no data on the percentage of appeals that are successful. In many cases, it seems the family appealing a MCPS decision is at a distinct disadvantage in the process. MCCPTA Executive Committee shared our concerns and MCPS will review the current process and come back to us with recommendations for improvement. Related, MCPS has an Ombudsman position but few parents know how to avail themselves of the services. Further, we've raised concern the position does not seem “impartial” since the same individual is also the Chief of Staff for the Board of Education, where an appeal eventually may lead.
- 9) **BOE Testimony – Course Selection** – In response to the numerous concerns raised by parents, particularly of high school students enrolled in AP/IB courses that have external assessments administered, I testified before the BOE. At present, we have students taking up to 8 academic courses, with a high percentage of the work having to be self-taught. MCPS has an option for students to reduce course load but few families know of this option. Full testimony here – <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1zbDemVT0x71Knw - kklpXq7qwKxanqOg/view>
- 10) **Food Security** – Last week, Essie McGuire reported MCPS meal distribution was over 2 million meals. I did request a report outlining where those meals are being distributed (by school/distribution site) so we can have a better sense of where things are occurring and where there might be additional need. Also, at last week's BOE meeting, MCPS Policy Committee proposed a new draft policy Board Policy JPH, *School Food and Nutrition Services Programs*, and is seeking public comment from now until February 12, 2021. The presentation reviewed by the Board on December 3, 2020 is available [here](#). Comments can be submitted [here](#).