**President’s Report Submitted by: Cynthia Simonson**

**June 10, 2020 \_ \_ president@mccpta.org**

**Since May 1 -- Meetings/Calls/Events:**

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| 5/04 | Special Education Discussion |
| 5/09 | Magruder Cluster Presidents |
| 5/09 | Damascus Cluster Presidents |
| 5/13 | Executive Committee Meeting |
| 5/14 | MCCPTA Board of Directors |
| 5/15 | Deputy Superintendent Advisory Committee |
| 5/19  5/20 | Executive Committee meeting with Dr. Smith  Interview MCMedia |
| 5/16 | Special Education Call |
| 5/22 | Dr. Wilson – Discussion |
| 5/26 | Deputy Superintendent Advisory Committee |
| 5/27 | AVP Meeting – Wilson, Morris, Koutsas, Dyson |
| 6/02 | Curriculum Committee Meeting -- OCIP |
| 6/03 | OSA Meeting – Survey Discussion for Recovery Plan |
| 6/03 | Executive Committee Meeting |
| 6/04 | Back to School – K-12Insights Webinar |
| 6/09 | SSP Discussion |
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**Key Activities/Concerns:**

1. **COVID-19 Communications/Decisions** – Continued advocating for better information flowing to/from MCPS on key areas of concern being raised by our Delegates/Presidents/Board via email and/or elist and social media discussions.

*Next Action Anticipated:* Continue dialogue with MCPS, heavily advocating for a survey to be distributed ASAP to parents that includes feedback on how distance learning has worked for our families and how possible fall plans may impact individual families (to help inform Recovery Plan approach).

1. **Elections/Necessary Board Transitions** – Worked with executive committee members, advocated heavily with MDPTA, and provided feedback to National PTA on concerns related to the MDPTA decisions/positions creating undue hardship on our local units if unable to meet to adjust budgets and elect next year’s officers.

*Next Action Anticipated:* MDPTA has until June 12th, according to the National PTA probation letter, to deliver to local units a plan to hold general meetings and hold elections. On June 13, MDPTA is holding a session with PTA leaders. MCCPTA Board will be discussing “plan b” and “plan c” for our locals to assist in leading the PTAs.

1. **Special Education –** Continued to participate in sessions and advocate on behalf of parents with specific issues related to our special educations students; Special education awards delivered!!

*Next Action Anticipated:*During the Recovery Design Planning process, I anticipate the needs of special education students to be one of the primary concerns. How do we better meet those students needs in an online/distance environment. Asking questions about whether those students should be the priority to move back into the brick and mortar environment. MCCPTA should closely follow the grievance MCPS teachers have filed related to special education reporting requirements and lack of necessary staff/time to complete these new filing requirements.

1. **Recovery Plan** – MCCPTA was asked to provide names of individuals to support the Recovery Planning process. I’ve forwarded names of 9 individuals that reached out to me volunteering to support the various teams.

*Next Action Anticipated*:My plan is to have that small group of MCCPTA representatives meet periodically (weekly/bi-weekly) to draft summary documents to keep the MCCPTA membership apprised of progress and foster feedback mechanism so

1. **Courageous Conversations** – As tensions build in communities (notably, Black Lives Matter and SRO/police presence) across the country, there is great opportunity to foster strong communications within our county and MCCPTA is well-poised to lead in this effort. I’ve had a number of conversations and a growing interest in having MCCPTA help bring folks to the table.

*Next Action Anticipated:* Build, promote, encourage, lead these conversations among our PTAs. Actively recruit a strong “Diversity & Inclusion” chair for our Board and build up that committee to help carry these conversations.

1. **Donations/Foundation/HHS Intersections** – I’ve participated in a number of conversations about how to get the assistance where needed. I’ve connected Gillian Huebner to this conversation as there is a high interest among our PTAs to meet community needs but the restrictions on 501c3 organizations make distribution to the benefit of individual families a challenge.

*Next Action Anticipated:*Once we have the “pipeline” figured out with the ability to make monetary donations to the Education Foundation and ensure those funds can be redirected to the four HHS sites that are providing the needed support to families, we will “blast” the procedures countywide so our families can contribute monies/gift cards and goods through the summer months to help relieve pockets of need within our county.

1. **Cluster Coordinator/OSSI Working Relationship, Discussions –** At our last face-to-face board meeting (February) we spent some time talking about the perspectives of the cluster coordinators in the working relationship with the OSSI directors. We circled back to this topic in our final AVP/OSSI Associate Superintendent meeting of the year and have some “agreements” for how the clusters and directors might make these more valuable exchanges for both sides and see better communications throughout our clusters.

*Next Action Anticipated:* I’ll circulate the list to the Board and pass along to include in cluster coordinator training sessions this summer.