**MCCPTA Vice President for Educational Issues report to MCCPTA Board of Directors [June 11 meeting]**

By Rodney Peele

*Recent information in italics*

**Activities (since Feb. 1)**

MCPS magnet information for minorities (Feb. 3)

Julius West MS parent curriculum information night (Feb. 13)

MCCPTA Board of Directors (Feb. 13)

Richard Montgomery HS PTA (Feb. 18)

MCPS magnet information for minorities (Feb. 18)

Richard Montgomery HS IB magnet program night (Feb. 18)

Richard Montgomery HS IB Parent Advisory Council (Feb. 19)

MCCPTA Executive Committee meeting with MCPS Superintendent Smith (Feb. 20)

MCCPTA Curriculum touch base with Safe Tech (Feb. 24)

MCCPTA Delegates Assembly (Feb. 25)

RM cluster coordinator meeting with OSSI (Feb. 26)

MCPS ESOL revisions information night (Feb. 27)

MCCPTA Board of Directors (Mar. 12)

MCPS Continuity of Learning (secondary) feedback session [virtual March 24]

Julius West MS PTSA meeting [virtual April 7]

MCCPTA BOD [virtual April 15]

MCPS Board of Education [virtual April 21]

MCCPTA curriculum meeting with MCPS OCIP [virtual April 22]

MCPS secondary grading and reporting workgroup [virtual April 23]

MD PTA meeting [virtual April 28]

Richard Montgomery HS PTA meeting [virtual April 28]

MD Blueprint webinar [April 29]

MCPS Board of education [virtual May 12]

Julius West MS PTSA [virtual May 12]

*MCCPTA BOD meeting [virtual May 14]*

*MCCPTA executive committee conference call with MCPS Superintendent’s office [virtual May 19]*

*Richard Montgomery HS PTSA meeting [virtual May 19]*

*Richard Montgomery HS IB program update [virtual May 22]*

*MCCPTA AVP quarterly meeting with MCPS [virtual May 27]*

*MCCPTA meeting with OCIP [virtual June 2]*

*Julius West MS PTSA meeting [virtual June 2]*

*MCCPTA executive committee meeting [virtual June 3]*

*MCPS Board of Education [virtual June 11]*

*MCCPTA BOD meeting [virtual June 12]*

**Topics**

School calendar/schedule:

* School buildings closed March 13. Phase I of virtual continuity of learning began March 27. Phase II of virtual continuity of learning began April 20. Phase III began May 18. School calendar 2019-2020 extended to June 15 (last day for seniors was May 22), spring break shortened, and April 28 reverted to a school day instead of election day. MCPS allowing students to retrieve belongings this month. MCPS working on a “recovery and reentry plan” for summer and fall, and promised to engage stakeholders. Maryland Department of Education issued Maryland Recovery Plan for Education in May. CDC issued guidance in May.
* *Considerations for reopening school buildings: limit size of groups, maintain social distancing, close communal areas, have staff (and probably many students) wear masks, restrict building visitors, more frequent hand sanitizing and building cleaning. Classrooms typically have room for 30 students; limiting to 10-12 requires substantial revision of classroom use. Schools are designed for group collaboration and socializing, so not using the cafeteria and having students eat at desks is also a major adjustment. Schools Buses typically hold up to 60 children, but might be limited to half of that, or less. MCPS must also account for students, family members and school staff who are at high risk from COVID-19 and may not feel comfortable with the increased risk of exposure in school buildings.*
* *Students may keep chromebooks for the summer. MCPS will continue to answer help lines for those who need a device and for those who need technical support.*
* *For summer, MCPS considering “jumpstart” program for rising K.*
* *MCPS is not planning to offer the traditional central career readiness camps this summer, since they are a hands-on, brick and mortar model.*
* *Summer ES: online math and/or ELA “boost” plus enrichment programs for 1, 2 or 3 weeks, primarily in July.*
* *Summer ES: ELO SAIL to provide 4-week, full day online program at Title I schools.*
* *Summer MS: online ELA and math “boost” plus enrichment content available up to 3 hours/day from July 13 to Aug. 7, and free to all.*
* *Summer HS: MCPS offering online courses June 14-August 14. Math boost (for algebra to pre-calculus) will be July 13-31, or July 20-August 7. Additional 1- to 3-week enrichment courses to be available. MCPS program will be free to all students. Individual HS may also provide local programs.*
* *Summer George B. Thomas school: planning 5-week program, 3 days a week (Tuesday-Thursday) with content for all grades (K-12) including reading, math and HS test prep (ACT or SAT).*
* *Innovative ES Roscoe Nix and Arcola to have summer program July 6-August 14.*
* *MSDE will allow MCPS to provide in-person summer learning opportunities, for up to 15 students in a classroom, and recommended prioritizing access for students who struggled with distance learning. MCPS still must work out any in-person school with county public health officials.*

Grading/Reporting updates:

* MP3: Report cards delivered: letter grades.
* MP4: Elementary will not be letter grades. Elementary missing grades will not restrict advancement. Secondary will be pass/incomplete. MP4 “pass” is a combination of engagement, performance and teacher discretion. Students will have until January 2021 to correct incomplete grades from MP3 and MP4.
* Final grades (that appear on official transcripts): Elementary grades (2-5) will be MP1+MP2+MP3. Final Middle School grades will be MP1+MP2+MP3, or higher with “pass” in MP4. Final High School second semester grades will be MP3 with one grade boost or choice in MP4 (A/B in MP3 + pass in MP4 = A for semester; C in MP3 + pass in MP4 = student choice of B or pass; D in MP3 + pass in MP4 = student choice of C or pass. E in MP3 + pass in MP4 = pass. Letter grades will be added to cumulative GPA. *Deadline to submit grading choice June 12*
* Attendance: Tracked by participation but not in traditional sense
* Graduation: On April 14, the State Board of Education voted to waive state testing requirements for high school seniors and requirements for Student Service Learning (SSL) hours.
* *Graduation: MCPS held county-wide virtual graduation June 7 and postponed in person celebrations later.*

Curriculum updates:

* ES: Eureka math prerecorded lecture M/W/F with teacher support and exit tickets; Benchmark ELA does not provide recorded lectures so MCPS created prerecorded lecture content for T/Th, and includes daily independent reading time for Grades PreK-1 (20 min) and Grades 2-5 (30-40 min). Specialist content (Art, Music, PE) 1 x per week with assignments. Science may begin in May. AEI team created and pushed out enrichment guides for ELA. Math 4/5 and 5/6 being taught per curriculum. MCPS expects elementary students will spend anywhere from 11-13.5 hours per week engaging in live classroom meetings, completing assignments and viewing materials. Science started May 4.
* Some Family Life for 5th graders may be delivered in 6th grade instead.
* Elementary Centers for Enriched Studies (CES) and Enriched Literacy Curriculum (ELC) received revised content from MCPS so that teachers and students may continue to access their curriculum through the district’s distance learning model.
* Secondary (MS and HS) ramping up slowly, with scheduling inconsistencies/overlap and lack of notice for content delivery. MCPS expects secondary students to receive one to two meaningful assignments each week in each course and can expect to be working for up to four hours each day. Typically new content will be pushed out on Mondays, and teachers will schedule office hours in the afternoons, and students are expected to work independently in the mornings, once they wake.
* *MCPS still pressing forward with curricula rollout, and no desire to fall back to curriculum 2.0. There will be more vendor-supported teacher training this summer.*
* *MCPS has decided to use a single platform (myMCPS) in the fall rather than two (myMCPS and Google Classroom).*
* *MCPS considers “continuation of learning” in MP4 as just a temporary response to national crisis, and doesn’t continue when 2019-2020 school year ends. Distance learning in the fall will be more robust than what we experienced in MP4. MCPS aiming for more synchronous instruction, more teacher-led instruction, less centralized content, and more traditional assessments, grading and reporting.*
* *Handmaid’s Tale book would continue to be available for IB magnet 10th grade English. MCPS will prepare a statement for parents to know more up front. There is a 2-page rationale for the decision, but ultimately the MCPS committee to review the content felt the benefits outweighed the concerns expressed by parents. MCCPTA will continue to advocate for upgrades to book review and parent notification processes.*

Programs updates:

* *MCPS is not moving forward with new Director position for ESOL programs.*
* *English language proficiency assessments scheduled for spring may be held in the fall, under federal waiver, for students in the ESOL program. Schools providing distance learning may continue to perform English language learner identification surveys and conduct additional screening virtually, according to the federal Department of Education. Schools continue to be obligated to provide language instruction services remotely, including language accommodations in content courses, but may be creative in how those services are provided.*
* *GT identification for 2nd graders to be done through central office over the summer, with parent notification in August.*
* *Regional IB programs received strong application interest but actual acceptance of admissions was not high enough to fill 50 seats per school.*
* *MCPS weighing impacts of COVID-19 restrictions on all choice programs this fall.*
* *MCPS: no intent to reduce reading specialists.*

Testing updates:

* SAT tests canceled May 2 and June 6. New test date (Sept. 26) added in the fall. In-school test dates March 25, April 14 and April 28 also cancelled. Next dates are Aug. 29 and Sept. 26.
* AP tests changed to open book/notes, 45-minute free response questions at home on reduced content. Students to receive scores on same scoring scale, at same rate as previous years. Note that AP tests are not curved – students who meet metrics get the points. Colleges expected to award credit despite testing change. Various subject tests had different testing requirements.
* IB tests cancelled; students recognized for graduation based on body of work.
* According to MSDE on testing required for graduation: “Additional assessment opportunities will be provided for the High School Maryland Integrated Science Assessment (MISA), High School Government, English Language Arts 10, and Algebra 1 during the fall semester. If school is in session in the summer, the High School Government assessment is scheduled to be administered.”
* *MCPS investigating holding SAT Day (canceled this spring) in the fall for Class of 2021.*