

Vice President of Educational Issues Officer Monthly Report

April 2017

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March Activities

- Board of Directors Meeting, March 2
- School Health Council, March 6, Rockville Library
- Bell Program Press Conference, March 9, Carver Auditorium
- Board of Directors Call Meeting, March 23
- Delegates Assembly, March 28

Upcoming Activities

- Board of Directors Meeting, April 6
- Delegates Assembly, April 25
- Curriculum Committee Meeting, May 1
- School Health Council Meeting, May 8

Recent and Ongoing Issues

Safety in our Schools

As many of you know, we held an extra Board of Directors meeting to make some headway on timely issues before the regularly-scheduled April Board meeting. With school safety making national headlines, we wanted MCCPTA parents to be in-the-know with regard to National PTA position statements regarding safety, harassment and equality. These national position statements are now available on our MCCPTA website. Also, a decision was made to form an ad hoc committee to gather ideas from parents and students on ways to make our schools safer and also to find out what makes students feel unsafe to begin with. It will be interesting to get the parent/student feedback. We hope to get some truly innovative ideas and solutions to pass along to MCPS. Also, we find that each school disseminated timely information in completely different ways, and some schools do not pass along information at all leaving concerned parents in the dark. MCCPTA will work with MCPS to make sure schools are consistent with their messaging.

The following National PTA Position Statements can now be found quickly and easily on our MCCPTA website:

Child Safety and Protection (16 pages) –

Gun Safety

Physical Health Programs and Services

Mental Health Programs and Services

(Comprehensive school and community health -- i.e.: Vision Screenings, Food Service, Phys Ed, School Counseling Programs, Parent and Family Community Education)

Trauma, Informed Care

Deals with Adverse Childhood Experience (ACE)

Sexual Harassment and Violence Affecting Students

Supports the strengthening of Title IX and other federal, state and local laws that identify, address the effects of, and prohibit sexual harassment and sexual violence impacting students. Urges collaboration with school administrations, institutions of higher learning, and community partners to ensure that every school:

- Provides support services for victims of sexual harassment and sexual violence, and
- Presents awareness and prevention programs that address sexual harassment and sexual violence affecting students, and
- Includes training on the responsibilities of educational institutions, as well as the rights of sexual violence and sexual harassment victims under Title IX and other laws and regulations.

Citizenship and Equality

Continued respect for, and expansion of civil rights requires they be defended whenever threatened and that children and youth be taught the significance of civil rights and responsibilities in American culture.

- Prohibiting discrimination on the basis of race, gender, socioeconomic status, ethnicity, national origin, language, religion, age, physical and academic ability, and sexual orientation;
- Equal opportunity for housing, education, health care, employment, and rights under the justice system;
- The right to a free quality public education, adequate food and shelter, and basic health care services for all children.

Services for Undocumented Children

The National PTA believes that all children residing in the United States, regardless of their immigration status, have the right of access to a quality public education, adequate food and shelter, and basic health care services.

BELL Program

The Building Educated Leaders for Life (BELL) program released their Summer Impact Report, 2016 with a press conference here at Carver. The program is a data-driven academic and enrichment program for rising third and fourth graders that addresses summer learning loss in an effort to close the opportunity gap. The program focuses on literacy and math and includes enrichment opportunities for the students and family engagement activities. Montgomery County Councilwoman Nancy Navarro, BoE President Michael Durso and Superintendent of Schools Jack Smith joined together with Josh Rales, President of Norman and Ruth Rales Foundation which helped sponsor the program; Jaime Crespo Director of Communications for BELL and MCPS teacher, Betsy Perry to unveil the success of this five-week summer program. According to the evaluation conducted by MCPS, BELL students significantly outperformed non attendees in Grade 3 math and reading and in Grade 4 math. The measurement of success was based on student MAP tests taken in the fall following the program. It is estimated that the BELL program will serve 4,200 students in under-resourced communities over the next four years.