

## **Resolution on Academic Eligibility for Extracurricular Activities**

Shirley Brandman offered the following resolution:

WHEREAS the Board of Education will review Policy IQD, "Academic Eligibility for Extracurricular Activities", at its upcoming February 14, 2006 meeting; and

WHEREAS we, as parents, are critically concerned that more than 20% of MCPS students in grades 9-12 are academically ineligible with 26% of our 9th grade students academically ineligible; and

WHEREAS research establishes that participation in extracurricular activities contributes to improved academic achievement as well as desirable outcomes including reduced drop out rates and absentee rates as well as positive social behavior; and

WHEREAS for many students, participation in extracurricular activities may be the only "hook" or incentive that motivates students to seek out and avail themselves of academic support; and

WHEREAS the high rate of academic ineligibility among student populations most vulnerable to gang recruitment also requires us to re-examine the policies which bar the most vulnerable from meaningful participation in extracurricular activities with access to role models and mentors and academic supports; and

BE IT NOW THEREFORE:

RESOLVED that MCCPTA strongly supports the proposed amendments which provide that "[i]t is the obligation of the school system to provide students with supports for maintaining academic performance and academic eligibility"; and be it further

RESOLVED that MCCPTA urges the Board of Education to amend Policy IQD which, as currently applied, offers no flexibility, to permit some opportunity for "provisional eligibility" under limited circumstances to support students who are sincerely striving to stay eligible.

It was seconded and passed by a standing vote.