

## **MCCPTA Statement on Sentencing of Lisa Betts**

On Tuesday, April 24, 2018, former MCCPTA Treasurer Lisa Betts was sentenced to five years in jail with all but nine months suspended, plus 5 years probation, on one count of embezzlement of more than \$39,000 from MCCPTA between July 1, 2016 and February 28, 2017. Mrs. Betts was ordered to pay restitution representing the balance of funds owed to the Montgomery County Council of PTAs (MCCPTA) and Travelers Insurance, which covered our loss. In addition, Mrs. Betts agreed to pay \$44,000 to Greencastle Elementary School PTA for funds misappropriated during her tenure there between 2011-2017. Losses from Greencastle were not included in the MCCPTA charge.

The MCCPTA Board of Directors is grateful that the situation has been resolved and that our Council and local unit have recovered funds intended for advocacy and family engagement programs to benefit children. We thank our members countywide for their patience and support during this process, especially the many volunteers who spent countless hours assisting law enforcement, prosecutors, accountants and insurers to bring this case to a just conclusion.

Immediately after the crime was reported, the MCCPTA Board of Directors recommitted to following standard financial practices and implemented new, more stringent checks and balances to protect the integrity of the organization's funds. Those procedures have been in place since June 2017 and are highly recommended for each local unit. Details are available at [MCCPTA.org](http://MCCPTA.org) under "Quick Links."

The MCCPTA Board of Directors takes our fiduciary responsibility very seriously. In light of this unfortunate situation, we appreciate the trust our members have continued to place in the organization over the past year. We do not take that lightly.

Montgomery County's 194 PTAs have many interests, priorities, and concerns. We look forward to resuming our full focus on supporting children and schools.

Lynne Harris, MCCPTA President