

From: Sunil Dasgupta, Chair, Health and Safety Committee

To: MCCPTA Board of Directors

Sub: Health and Safety Committee Monthly Report

Date: 2017-09-28

This report is divided into parts. The first addresses H&S Committee as a whole. This is followed by subcommittee reports.

H&S Committee

- a) Established new H&S listserv MCCPTA-Health-and-Safety-New@yahoogroups.com. Sought migration from older lists.
- b) Established contact with MCPS Superintendent, COO, and Deputy Superintendent, OSSI, to request for regular meetings along the lines of MCCPTA Curriculum Committee.
- c) Sought and met with potential new members interested in Mental Health and Wellness and Drug and Substance Abuse Prevention.
- d) Met with President of School Psychologists Association of Montgomery County. We are talking to her about supporting their event at Carver on Nov 13. Details being worked out. No/little spending impact.
- e) Working with members interested in School Nutrition, Drug and Substance Abuse, and Mental Health to build list of pro bono speakers to make available for PTA meetings.
- f) October is National Emotional Wellness Month as well as Prevent Bullying Month. Preparing outreach push.
- g) Sent out Helplines and Hotlines Information. Will be sending out more widely.
- h) Looking into best strategy for including PTA members in school Wellness Teams as mandated in MCPS Wellness Guidelines.

School Climate and Safety

The Sub-Committee on School Climate and Safety falls under the Committee on Health and Safety and is new this year. This month, MCPS released an [Interim Report on School Safety and Security](#), covering MCPS' 25 high schools. A comprehensive review of all MCPS schools is currently underway. The MCCPTA Sub-Committee shared comments on the report with MCPS Department on School Safety and Security (DSSS).

We drafted a resolution on the Rights of and Protections for Undocumented Children for consideration by the MCCPTA delegates and board of directors. A vote on the resolution is expected next month.

A number of PTAs have expressed an interest in resources for promoting positive school climate and safety, including but not limited to cyber bullying and safety, healthy dating, sexual and gender-based violence, racial justice, rights and protections for undocumented students and

families, restorative justice and non-violent conflict resolution strategies. The Sub-Committee is currently compiling a list of resources appropriate for use by public school systems and PTAs. If you have any to recommend, please send them forward and we'll add them to the list. We will continue to update and share the list.

Finally, we are working in collaboration with Communities United Against Hate (CUAH), which is hosting their first county-wide schools conference for parents, students and teachers on October 7 from 8:30-12:30 at the Silver Spring United Methodist Church and again on October 22nd from 12:30-4:30 pm at Shady Grove Middle School. More information is available [here](#).

Safe Technology

A) Safe Technology Subcommittee Monthly Report for September:

- Testified at two Board of Ed. Meetings on: 1.) June COG-RA revisions that allow elementary school kids to bring devices to school & cell towers on school grounds, 2.) blue light retinal damage from computers and piloting a wired classroom to evaluate feasibility.
- Subcommittee meeting held on September 22, 2017.
- Sept. 19 meeting with MCPS General Counsel regarding student data deletion.
- Sept. 19 meeting with MCPS Chief Technology Officer to present overview and invitation to meet quarterly; invitation accepted; dates presented. Awaiting confirmation.
- At BOE Jeanette Dixon's suggestion, we are in first stages of MCCPTA poll of elem. school principals regarding COG-RA revisions. We have asked Mr. Cevinini (MCPS CTO) to partner with us on the poll; awaiting his response.
- Incident Log begun.
- Yahoo Group and Google Drive set up to help collect resources and communicate with community at large.

B.) Lisa Cline (co-chair) completed mandatory Board Trainings (3).

School Nutrition

School Nutrition Subcommittee will be reaching out to welcome the new head of MCPS Department of Food and Nutrition Services, Sarah McCarron. We will ask to set up a meeting with Sunil Dasgupta and Lisa Mandell (chair). We plan to build a positive working relationship with Ms. McCarron, learn more about her vision for MCPS school food, and hear her thoughts on the MCCPTA School Food Resolution.