**VP Advocacy Report**

**Advocacy Priorities**

We continued to receive feedback up through the 9th. I have suggested a few amendments (In yellow) in the working document. In Green is wording suggestions that do not change the intent of the priority. The main areas were:

Equity vs. Equality. I have suggested to keep the equity language.

Adding Special Education line in Access. I recommend an amendment

A member asked for clarity on Independent Activity Funding. Henry Smith will clarify.

Capital Funds. I recommend an amendment to make clear that condition of a building should be the main factor when prioritizing renovations. I also recommend an amendment to recapture MCPS owned real estate and preserving parkland when possible. (wordsmithing might be neccassary)

Under Transparency , I recommend working on a clearer definition of Open Data. (no need for amendment)

Added clarity on final exam policies. (No need for amendment)

Recommend amendment to add safe routes, bus stops, and overcrowded buses to School climate and security.

 I have asked interested parties to work on a line about sustainability and green schools to address the climate emergency. Amendment will follow.

**Evan Glass Proposed Bill:**

I don’t have the final version of the bill, MCCPTA is invited to attend the press conference on Monday October 15th. This bill is a way to capture the impact of “new” houses in an older neighborhood.

* The Housing Impact Fairness Act would:
	+ Apply the current school impact fee as outlined in the SSP to newly rebuilt homes
	+ Redirect the funds raised for the existing transportation impact fee toward the Housing Initiative Fund, providing dedicated funding toward affordable housing.

* The bill is needed because:
	+ When homes are torn down and replaced with newer and larger structures, they are exempt from paying impact fees, despite all other forms of new construction contributing to fund our infrastructure (including the tearing down of apartment buildings that are replaced with newer apartment buildings).
	+ Newly rebuilt homes generate 20% more students than existing single family homes but do not pay any school impact fees.
	+ There have been over 2,000 teardowns just in the past 10 years. This has coincided with record enrollment in MCPS at 164,000 students. New revenue is needed to keep pace with enrollment growth.
	+ If we close this loophole we could raise $100 over the next 10 years. $57 million for schools and $43 million for affordable housing.

**SSP**

Katya Marin and I, and other MCCPTA Board members attended the workshop. There was opportunity to talk about new ideas and how the current system is and isn’t working. Katya is representing MCCPTA in the workgroup sessions.

**Schools At A Glance**

We have confirmed that the current Schools at a Glance will be replaced with some sort of Dashboard. We’ve requested a meeting with Office of Accountability but was told that they aren’t making all the decisions regarding this action. We will next take it up to the Associate Superintendent. I plan on testifying at the next BOE meeting regarding this decision. Several politicians are ready to write letters as well, including the County Executive.

**IG Bill**

Senator Kramer is drafting a bill to expand the current IG’s jurisdiction to MCPS.

**CIP**

Will find a date for training ASAP. Due to demand, we will also review what the Boundary Assessment will accomplish. This might help local PTA’s explain to their members what this is and what is isn’t.

**Water Bottle Fillers**

Rebecca Smondrowski will be presenting a new resolution to the BOE. MCCPTA supports this effort.

 **Kirwan**

 The preliminary formula came out. MoCo will be able to make the matching local dollars, at 37 million more than today’s dollars. We will have a net increase in funds for kids from the state, about 294 million. We would receive 12.25% of the State Dollars, if this version sticks. Prince George’s and Baltimore City would have to come up with significantly more local dollars. I am assuming this means that they will require more state aid in the end.

IMPORTANT: November Kirwan Forum. PLEASE send one person per school if possible.