**Report of School Climate & Safety Committee Submitted by: Rob Wilcox**

**October 14, 2020 \_ \_ climateandsafety@mccpta.org**

**Since September 1 -- Meetings/Calls/Events:**

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| 9/08 | SRO Working Group |
| 10/13 | SRO Working Group |
| 10/14 | Call w/ MCPS Director, Governance, Policy, and Community Relations |
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**Top Activities/Concerns:**

1. **SRO Working Group –** The SRO Working Group has continued to meet to discuss incidents, use of force and potential changes to the SRO program in MCPS.The September meeting focused on a presentation from law enforcement on arrest data. The emphasis was that arrests are rare and only used for serious crimes, the vast majority of arrests are initiated by school personnel outreach to law enforcement, and that SROs actively work with the school on diversion so that most arrests will have an outcome other than incarceration.  
     
   On October 5, the Board received information on SRO activity in schools. The Board requested this presentation in its initial resolution. Data showed presented showed that 460 students were arrested in the past three school years throughout MCPS. Of those arrests, 382 (83%) were of Black and Hispanic students. Eleven percent of arrests were of white students during the same time period. MCPS’ student population is about 27% white, 21% Black and 32% Hispanic, according to MCPS data. Each of the years for which data were provided showed a decrease in the number of overall arrests. During the 2017-18 school year, there were 226 student arrests, compared to 163 in 2018-19 and 77 in 2019-20. Students were most commonly arrested for possessing drugs or weapons and for attacking other students, according to the data. The data were not broken down by school. The Bethesda Beat wrote up and provided succinct recap -- <https://bethesdamagazine.com/bethesda-beat/schools/high-school-principals-support-keeping-sros-school-district-says/>   
     
   The October Working Group meeting focused on reviewing the Memorandum of Understanding between MCPS and law enforcement and proposing suggestion to the various sections. Suggestions were offered for nearly every section and a revised version will be circulated before the next meeting, scheduled for later in Oct. One suggestion explicitly as about have PTA cluster reps participate in the hiring process.
2. **Gun Violence Prevention Resolution –** The MCPS Board of Education Policy Committee expects to discuss gun violence prevention at its October 22 meeting. The Director for Governance, Policy, and Community Relations reached out to MCCPTA to tell us that they will be discussing our 2019 resolution along with the resolutions submitted by MCR and Moms Demand Action. Each organization has been invited to submit short videos (no longer than 10 minutes) outlining their priorities. MCPS staff has examined the resolutions and will present on where current MCPS policy or program is meeting the mark and where MCPS could bolster its efforts. The Committee will discuss and either make recommendations to the full board or direct the staff to do additional work. We are getting more information on how to submit the video and what areas MCPS staff will recommend more action about.

1. **Sexual Assault –** We have been monitoring the developing situation of the coach alleged to have engaged in sexual assault of students.
2. **Bullying** – We became aware of a student who impersonated another student on Zoom (through changing the name and going off camera) and then use racist language. The victim’s family (i.e., the student was being impersonated) does not feel that the student has been vindicated and is seeking more accountability and action from MCPS. We are monitoring,