

The following resolution was passed at the MCCPTA Delegates Assembly on October 28, 2008:



Resolution on FY2010 Operating Budget Priorities

Whereas, MCCPTA's mission is to speak for children and without question our highest budget priority is education;

Be it resolved that the MCCPTA Delegates approve the following operating budget priorities for the organization to concentrate on this budget year.

Current or improved teacher/student ratios at all schools,

Safe, secure, well-maintained, healthy, school facilities,

Sensible, developmentally appropriate, fully supported curriculum implementation,

School-based community outreach,

and

Tailored support, especially for those who are performing below grade level, and enrichment programs for all students.

Back Ground on Operating Budget Priorities:

MCCPTA officers visited PTA leadership in each area of the county in June and July, 2008. The list of priorities represents the most frequently mentioned concerns. Below are further details on each item.

Current or improved teacher/student ratios at all schools- MCPS has made progress toward reducing class sizes in recent years. In a period of tight budgets it is important to protect this progress. It is especially important to target staff resources in subject areas and classrooms of highest need. This would include strategies such as:

- Preserving current staffing ratios
- Hours-based staffing for special education students
- Caps on class-sizes in pivotal courses such as Algebra I

Safe, secure, well-maintained, healthy school facilities- Devoting resources to the classroom includes devoting resources to ensuring a classroom environment that facilitates learning. Components of a good learning environment include:

- well-maintained classrooms free of mold, vectors, and other contaminants
- freedom from bullying and gang activities
- reasonably limited access to school facilities

Sensible, fully-supported curriculum implementation- Parents around the County continue to have concerns about the way major curriculum reforms are implemented, especially the accelerated math curriculum. Adequate supports would include:

- more assistance to students in filling in gaps in their background
- more teacher training BEFORE introducing the changes
- adequate instructional materials

School-based community outreach- Parent involvement needs to be more of a two-way communication process. Unmet needs include:

- school based interpretation services for parents who have limited English skills
- ongoing feedback to parents on their expressed concerns

Tailored support, especially for those who are performing below grade level, and enrichment programs for all students - The high stakes nature of HSAs emphasizes the need to make sure every student has help in filling in the gaps in his education. Enhanced supports include:

- in-school tutoring opportunities
- after school programs
- summer programs

In addition, the diversity of interests and goals in the MCPS student body requires that enrichment support be provided for students who are working toward accelerating their learning.