**President’s Report Submitted by: Cynthia Simonson**

**March 10, 2021 president@mccpta.org**

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

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| 2/1 | MCCPTA Virtual Learning/Special Education -- Townhall |
| 2/1 | MCCPTA Diversity Equity and Inclusion -- Discussion |
| 2/3 | MCCPTA Virtual Learning/Special Education - Debrief |
| 2/3 | Magruder Cluster Meeting |
| 2/5 | MCCPTA Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Committee Meeting w/Ed Clarke & Karen Stratman |
| 2/5 | MCCPTA Health and Wellness -- Discussion |
| 2/7 | MCCPTA DEI Debrief |
| 2/10 | MCCPTA Board of Directors meeting |
| 2/11 | Deputy Superintendent Advisory Committee (DSAG) |
| 2/11 | Montgomery County Literacy Council – Bridging the Gap |
| 2/12 | Recovery Education Meeting – Montgomery College, USG, Independent Schools, Etc. |
| 2/15 | MDPTA Virtual Learning Training; Business Meeting (canceled, lack of quorum) |
| 2/17 | Anti-racist Audit |
| 2/18 | OCIP/Curriculum Committee Meeting |
| 2/19 | MCCPTA Communications Committee with MCPS Comms Team |
| 2/19 | OHRD – Principal Selection Process discussion |
| 2/22 | School Food & Nutrition Subcommittee Meeting w/DFNS |
| 2/23 | Delegates Assembly |
| 2/26 | OCTO Discussion |
| 2/28 | MCCPTA Engage – SRO Discussion |
| 3/2 | Safe Tech Committee Meeting with OCTO |
| 3/3 | School Food & Nutrition Meeting with Councilmember Gabe Albornoz and Team Rice |
| 3/3 | MCCPTA Curriculum Meeting |
| 3/3 | OHRD – Follow up on Principal Selection Process Meeting |
| 3/4 | BOE Testimony – School Resource Officers |
| 3/5 | Meeting with Deputy Superintendent |
| 3/7 | Excomm Meeting |
| 3/9 | Imagination Library |
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**Top 10 -- Activities/Concerns:**

1. **MDPTA Concerns/National PTA –** National PTA issues correspondence on February 23rd was transmitted to the elists. National has requested the reinstatement of the President elect Marla Posey-Moss due to the board improperly removing her from the board. MDPTA has not complied. February 15th Meeting did not have necessary participation to garner quorum. No action accomplished.

1. **School Resource Officers (SRO) –** Worked with MCCPTA’s Board, including the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion committee, to support discussions, material development, testimony, etc. to consider the role of the SROs in the school. Provided testimony on the SRO program before BOE and engaged in dozens of conversations to help Delegates understand MCCPTA positions. Followed up with MCPS Chief of Staff about errant assertions about MCCPTA position and process. Responded to Councilmember staff, as requested. <https://go.boarddocs.com/mabe/mcpsmd/Board.nsf/files/BYRTRV78AD59/$file/Cynthia%20Simonson.pdf>
2. **Food Security** – Followed up with the MCCPTA Nutrition Subcommittee and partners on opportunities to support better food distribution services. Learned from DFNS earlier in month they plan to have food service up and running in all schools by March 15 for in-person students but all virtual students (60% of students, heavily skewed to the most impacted students) will not be accessing from the schools but will have service reduced to 24 cluster hubs. Met with Councilmember Albornoz and Craig Rice’s team to discuss supports for these families (and how Council can better support MCPS). Some students will be 4-5 miles from closest “cluster hub.” Also met with Dr. McKnight and Essie McGuire on same.
3. **Supplies** – Multiple conversation with Area Associate Superintendents and most recently with Dr. McKnight and Essie McGuire regarding principal requests for supplies (pencils, pens, copy paper), PPE (masks, shields), and cleaning supplies (hand soap, Clorox wipes, hand sanitizer). These are all items that are held in the warehouse and/or purchased through Cares Act monies and have been stockpiled awaiting return to schools. It is unclear why these are being requested. MCPS to issue a memo to principals (that we can repeat to parents).
4. **Indoor Air Quality – Ventilation/Cleaning –** Engaged in discussions with Health and Wellness Environmental Committee and coordinated with MCPS to broker discussion between proper offices and our subcommittee to tap into Subcommittee expertise. (We are really, really lucky to have such accomplished parents willing to share their expertise so willingly.)
5. **Class of 2021 Graduation Ceremony Plans** – Crowdsourced document to allow parent leaders to weigh in on current plans (traditional indoor venues) vs. holding graduation on school stadium/field. Solicited 200 comments overwhelmingly favoring MCPS allow schools to begin planning outdoor ceremonies.
6. **Principal Selection Process** – Learned from several PTA leaders that principal selections for their schools (that had Acting Principals since last summer) involved the same frantic pace – only a few days’ notice for community meeting, rushed survey, ambiguous correspondence, and only a few days’ notice for volunteers to take off work to participate in interviews… and this is knowing 8 months in advance this day was coming! Office of Human Resources and Development is building a “what to expect” document for MCCPTA distribution to PTAs anticipating principal selections. Also agreed to minimum days’ notice for all tasks. Anticipate this will be updated annually.
7. **Curriculum/HS Graduation Requirements/Math Pathways/Virtual Academy** – All these will, no doubt, be addressed more fully in the VP of Educational Issues and Curriculum Chair reports; HOWEVER, I just love these subjects so find myself drawn to the conversation naturally. Definitely read their reports! What they might not address is an idea for a Virtual Academy. For those familiar with “MC Early College” – students do not take any classes on campus but are considered students of the school for all extracurricular, sports, clubs, music, etc. It is gaining interest of parents.
8. **Administrative Follow Up Actions** – Worked with VP Admin and Office to ensure we are getting all our PTAs in order – Delegate and Presidents updated, dues paid, etc. Also, beginning to map out with the Communications Chair how elists will be populated going forward. Beginning to purge lists of individuals that do not serve in any MCCPTA roles this year.
9. **Ombudsman** – (repeated) MCCPTA Executive Committee continues to ask MCPS question regarding the current Ombudsman office. When families raise concerns with a school, if the initial response is not satisfactory for the family, the process becomes very circular with the inability to easily elevate and have an impartial review of a situation. MCCPTA has included the following in the 20-21 Advocacy Priorities, “Designate an impartial ombudsman to guide families in navigating the complexities of the system and ensure fair treatment.” MCPS reported to the excomm in January the position has not warranted a full-time staff member to serve as an Ombudsman, thus the reason our current MCPS Ombudsman splits her responsibilities between Chief of Staff and Ombudsman. We have sent forward documents from other public school Ombudsman offices to demonstrate the contrast.