**ADVOCACY:**

**Recruiting**

We are proposing that ***Advocacy*** become a Standing Committee.  We are seeking volunteers who might be interested in helping any one or more of these areas—

1)     Advocacy Events (Candidates forums; legislator reception, bus trip to Annapolis­­­­­­­­­)

2)     Operating Budget;

3)     CIP;

4)     Tracking/engaging the Board of Education (including Comments on Policy Mngmt);

5)     Tracking/engaging the County Council issues;

6)    Engaging MoCo Delegation and track General Assembly issues/legislation

7)     Other issues/Committee involvement

An initial planning session being held on May 22

**Summer Planning**

We need to start planning summer Area Meetings. As in past years, we will use these sessions to solicit input on MCCPTA advocacy goals for 2017-18.

**County Council Operating Budget**

This week, the County Council reached a unanimous preliminary agreement on a $5.4 billion operating budget for FY 2018, including $2.52 billion for Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS)—100 percent of the request of the Board of Education. This represents an increase of $64.6 million (2.6 percent) compared to the FY 17 approved budget. It includes:

* A local contribution that is $19.0 million above the State-mandated Maintenance of Effort (MOE) level for FY18. The required MOE contribution for FY18 is $1.64 billion, an increase of $28.1 million over the FY17 approved total County contribution due to enrollment increases. The Board requested a local contribution of $1.67 billion.
* $58.6 million for the local contribution to State retirement for teachers, as required by the General Assembly in 2012.
* Funding for an additional 103.8 full-time employees over the approved FY17 level, for a total of 22,284.3. The increase is primarily in teacher positions (91.2).

Funding will enable MCPS to meet needs of projected total enrollment of 161,302 for FY18. This is an increase of 2,292 over the actual FY17 enrollment. Comparing enrollment projections (which affect the budget changes year to year), the FY18 budget projection is an increase of 2,286 over the budgeted FYI7 level. Enrollment of students with Limited English Proficiency is projected to increase by 500, for a total of 23,150 students for FY18.

Also added was $2.2 million to support expansion of 10 Public Head Start classrooms to full day programs. It also provided $342,000 for pre-K to 40 3-to-5 year-olds.

**Federal Budget**The week of May 22, the Trump Administration’s Fy2018 budget proposal will be delivered to Capitol Hill, including an expected cut of $10.6 billion from federal education initiatives.