

Since August 1 -- Meetings/Calls/Events:

- 8/3 Deputy Superintendent Meeting
- 8/3 MCCPTA Committee Chair Training
- 8/4 Attendance Design Committee
- 8/4 Grading & Reporting Design Committee
- 8/5 Black & Brown Coalition Call
- 8/7 MC/USG/HHS/MCPS/IAG – Community Discussion
- 8/10 Deputy Superintendent Call – Antiracist audit/OHRD
- 8/11 CIP Discussion (North Clusters)
- 8/11 ABC7 – Back to School discussion -- https://wjla.com/news/local/town-hall-back-to-school-in-the-dmv?fbclid=IwAR32opLmG5O_xyvKsyAkI9UJILb9RHT8y6zsS8wAxDVU5DnqtxwDO87KxBU
- 8/11 Antiracist Audit Discussion
- 8/12 ESOL Forum Discussion
- 8/12 MCPS Partnership Unit Discussion
- 8/13 Executive Committee Meeting
- 8/14 National PTA Discussion regarding MDPTA
- 8/17 Council Presidents Call
- 8/18 Baltimore Sun – Interview (MDPTA)
- 8/18 Maryland Matters – Interview (MDPTA)
- 8/18 Washington Post – Interview (School Start)
- 8/19 WMAL – 2 interviews (School Start)
- 8/19 OCTO – feedback on Parent Tech webinars
- 8/20 BOD Meeting
- 8/21 MC/USG/HHS/MCPS/IAG – Community Discussion
- 8/22 OCTO discussions
- 8/25 Board of Education Meeting
- 8/26 MCCPTA Treasurer Training (Part 2)
- 8/26 ESOL Forum Discussion
- 8/28 MC/USG/HHS/MCPS/IAG – Community Discussion
- 9/03 Associate Sup – OHRD discussion (Magnets)
- 9/08 National PTA Discussion with 7 Maryland Councils

Top 10 -- Activities/Concerns:

- 1) **Prepping for 20-21** – Continued to work with Executive Committee Officers and committee chairs to set our organization up for success. I'm working with the MCCPTA Office Manager currently to make sure our Board members and Presidents are getting the elist notifications (a slow and laborious grind, I might add). In coming weeks, we'll start purging individuals that are not current board members off the lists and turn our attention to getting the President list populated so we have strong outreach to our local units during this season.
- 2) **MDPTA Concerns -- Elections/Necessary Board Transitions/Officer Behavior/National PTA Intervention** – Continued to work with executive committee members and volunteer board members on addressing a series of concerns at MDPTA. Engaged with National PTA and continued to navigate the impacts of the most recent decision to put the MDPTA into Restructuring. Further discussions with Secretary of State and others on MDPTA's officer decision to file a restraining order and temporary injunction and how that impacts our membership. I've advised all local units to "hold off" on paying any dues or filing any SOCA reports with MDPTA until National PTA provides specific direction.

I've also held a number of conversations with National PTA regarding how the MDPTA activities/restructuring (and possibility of future action of revoking the charter) affects our local units. I've raised a number of questions to National about the Annual Report released by MDPTA after the National Restructuring requirement include MDPTA is not to reach out to local units directly. I've asked about following process for statements within the Annual Report that calls into question the prior board activities/integrity. I've requested the officer reports and other materials to substantiate the accusations levied in the Annual Report. Also, included in my concerns the inuendo and characterizations that board resignations were due to unwillingness to follow rules (which I've read several of the resignations and each included concerns about the current officers breaking bylaws), use of scripture within the non-profit annual report, and concerns our membership has raised surrounding incomplete financial and officer reports.

Currently exploring with a group of volunteer board members (who are attorneys) what some of the filings mean and how MCCPTA should respond to the current state of MDPTA. I'll bring possible options and get direction from the Board on how MCCPTA will proceed. For those wanting to know more about what restructuring means, check out this link for a better understanding about the stages of Non-Compliance and where MDPTA is in this process --

<https://www.pta.org/docs/default-source/files/runyourpta/standards-of-affiliation/npta---procedures-regarding-non-compliance---resource-b.pdf>

- 3) **Media/Social Media** – Participated in several interviews (print/tv) related to school reopening, MCPS plans, and most recently, MDPTA transparency concerns. Also, have tried to increase social media postings and commenting on various issues posted by parents expressing concerns. (Often replaying all my “favorite hits” from my years as the MCCPTA VP of Educational Issues – hitting the “honors for all,” “tech ed credit,” and “algebra for all” discussions!!) MCCPTA currently has 3 specific pages – MCCPTA Group, MCCPTA Covid-19 Response, and MCCPTA ESOL and Non-English Speaking Families. There are also a few other groups that have high parent/teacher participation so I try to engage there and inform areas where MCPS may want to provide more support.
- 4) **Donations/Foundation/HHS Intersections** – Continued to follow up with Education Foundation on meeting basic supply needs for students. Part of this conversation has highlighted the Education Foundation may not be a viable option for meeting short term needs identified within the school system. Connected with the Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Committee – suggesting perhaps our MCCPTA committee help more impacted schools apply for grants available through the foundation. In the coming months, I would like to explore where MCCPTA might have better success in meeting short term needs identified by the communities as our experience with the Education Foundation is it takes months for something to be put in place.
- 5) **Community “External Stakeholder” Discussions** – Continued participating in weekly discussions with Dr. Pollard (Montgomery College) and Dr. McKnight (MCPS) that included representatives from Universities of Shady Grove, Independent Schools, Health and Human Services, and several non-profits to share information as reopening schools is occurring within the county. Much of the conversation this month centered on food security issues (I reached out to other school districts to help identify alternatives to MCPS 74 school sites during “lunch hours” and instead, showing how other districts across the county have aligned to have earlier/later pick up times to align with normal work schedules; bus service to drop off; multiple days of food at a time, etc.).
- 6) **Synergy/Student Information System Launch** – Continued to provide feedback and look for opportunity to better connect the work of the Office of the Chief Technology Officer (OCTO) to the needs parents have in navigating the new technology system. Currently connecting this work with the ESOL committee work so we are hitting both pieces.

- 7) **LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS** – Candidate forum on Monday, October 5th, 7-8:30pm. Jennifer Young is the MCCPTA Point Person on this effort but over the coming weeks, we will be promoting heavily and using as an opportunity to further engage the parent community in education advocacy.

- 8) **Magnet Staffing discussions** – In collaboration with committees, engaged the new Associate Superintendent overseeing Human Resources to discuss the hiring practices for the countywide magnet programs. At present, the curriculum is county directed but all hiring decisions (coordinators and teaching assignments) are made at the local level without central office input, creating a disconnect in some instances.

- 9) **Crisis Responses** – Engaged the MCPS upper management to discuss crisis response (recognizing pandemic limitations) for communities in crisis. Emphasized with a school system this size, it is not a matter of “if” but “when” the next crisis hits. Communities should feel the immediate “pounce” of resources to assist staff, students, admin, and alumni in addressing bad news that affects the entire community.

- 10) **Recovery Team Work** – Some recovery teams will be winding down on some aspects (“Our Work Here is Done”) while others will be gearing up now that school is in session. The next area of focus, I expect, to be returning to our re-entry plan. The announcements from the Governor and Secretary Salmon last week means there will likely be increased pressure (and conversation) around how to get students back into the classroom.