October/November -- Meetings/Calls/Events:

10/1	Vaccine Partners – Discussion
10/1	Children's Opportunity Fund – Aligning MCCPTA concerns with the Foundation's purposes
10/1	BOE Staff – MCCPTA Board meeting with BOE members (planning discussion)
10/2	COVID Operations – quarantine approaches (multiple calls)
10/5	ES Principal – quarantine approach
10/6	Vaccine Partner Meeting – DHHS, countywide vax rates
10/6	Magruder Vaccination Clinic – Holy Cross Partnership
10/6	Excomm Meeting – Communications with Interim Superintendent
10/6	Antiracist Audit Advisory Meeting – Secondary survey feedback
10/7	MCPS OCIP (curriculum) Meeting – Magnet selection criteria plans
10/7	COVID Operations Advisory Team – 1st meeting (Yes to Test, Test to Stay, Vaccine Rollout)
10/13	Vaccine Partners -- Discussion
10/13	MCCPTA BOD Meeting
10/14	COVID Operations Advisory Team – Meeting
10/15	MCPS Budget Advisory Meeting #1
10/18	MCPS Budget Advisory Meeting #2
10/19	MCPS Internal Auditor Discussion
10/20	Vaccine Partners -- Discussion
10/20	MCPS Student Welfare Quarterly Meeting
10/21	COVID Operations Advisory Team
10/26	OTLS - Meeting
10/26	Delegates Assembly
10/27	Vaccine Partners – Discussion
10/27	DSITT Meeting
10/27	MCPS – Capital Planning Meeting
10/28	"Board-to-Board" – BOE/BOD
10/29	Budget Advisory Meeting #3
10/29	DSITT Meeting
11/1	OCIP – Magnet Discussion
11/2	CIP Hearings
11/3	MCCPTA – HYA Meeting re: Superintendent Search
11/4	Excomm Meeting with Interim Superintendent
11/4	CIP Hearings
11/5	Budget Advisory Meeting #4
11/8	Excomm
11/10	Antiracist Audit Working Group
11/10	MCCPTA BOD Meeting
11/15	OCIP – Curriculum Meeting
11/18	COVID Operations Advisory Team
11/19	MCPS Wellness Director -- Discussion
11/23	Ombuds -- Discussion
Many	Interviews with media outlets on range of topics

Top 10 Activities/Concerns:

1) **School Security and Safety –** At the BOD meeting on November 10, the DEI committee brought forward a motion asking MCCPTA Board to request a meeting regarding how the SRO Program was disbanded and what Montgomery County and MCPS put in its place. The memo was addressed to the County Executive, County Council President, BOE President, and the Interim Superintendent with cc's to all council members and board members. Several reached out acknowledging receipt.

2) **MCPS Budget Advisory** -- MCPS has a very large budget advisory committee (mostly MCPS staff but also union and community reps) that advises the Interim Superintendent on budget priorities for the next school year. I have sent a message to the Chief as the entire process was a facilitated discussion with power point slides but never included any actual budget information on any aspects of the budget (no spreadsheets, no dollar figures)**.** This was the first year I've been part of this advisory committee but in talking to past reps, the process involved binders of information with each Department outlining what they need in a budget for the following year and how those resources would be expended.

3) **Ombuds** – This fall, MCPS [appointed an Ombuds](#) for the system. MCPS has historically combined this role with other responsibilities. Our advocacy has been centered on an Ombuds to ensure families are afforded a fair process when they have concerns about the system. We've invited the Ombuds to attend the November 30th Delegates Assembly to provide an overview of the role to outline what the Ombuds does (and does not do) for the families of our system.

4) **COAT/Vaccine Sites –** MCCPTA continues to advocate for MCPS to use everyday solutions as quickly as possible to interrupt COVID transmission rates. MCCPTA continues to advocate for use of volunteers to assist with increasing the distancing during meal times (allowing use of outdoor spaces, as appropriate). Through the Covid Advisory Team (COAT) and the Vaccine Partners, MCCPTA has been well represented engaging in conversations about the vaccine rollout for 5-11 year olds. Our advocacy has been around reaching students and families that may not have easy access through traditional pediatric visits. We continue to press MCPS for clearer communications, more transparency (and integrity) of the dashboard, and working with SMEs, aiming to offer for MCPS consideration options that align with best practices. MCCPTA also continues to advocate for MCPS to provide clear processes and procedures related to the quarantining of students. MCCPTA has worked with the County Executive and County Council to ensure we weren't further disrupting student education unnecessarily.

5) **Equity/Supports** – In the Board-to-Board meeting in late October, we engaged in conversation surrounding creating more access to opportunities in schools that may not have strong, robust PTAs – particularly around afterschool programming and opportunities. We know from past experience, the MCPS Education Foundation is not able to move quickly in providing supports so am now starting to seek out alternatives to support MCCPTA's intentions. More on this soon…

6) **Principal Selection Process –** A longstanding concern raised by our PTA leaders is related to the interview process for new principals. While our advocacy with MCPS has only had modest response, the Montgomery County Office of Legislative Oversight (OLO) is now researching the MCPS principal selection and evaluation process. For those interested in weighing in on the current process, please use these links (and share freely). Embedded in the link is the contact information for the researcher. Please contact her if you would be interested in discussing further. English: https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/Z69S2PG Spanish: *https://es.surveymonkey.com/r/CYCK2XM*

7) **School Improvement Plans -**- At a BOE meeting earlier this year, an Office of Teaching Learning and Students (OTLS) Area Associate Superintendent and one of the OTLS Directors spoke about the School Improvement Plan (SIP) process. I've included the [link](#) to the discussion and encourage those that missed this discussion to jump to the near end of the review the questions/comments at 2:55:39 – 2:59. It was clear during the Delegates Assembly last month, the SIP was a "best kept secret" that many of our PTA leaders (though assumed to be involved) had never heard of. Results of the crowdsourced document was shared with OTLS and the Interim Superintendent highlighting that though the system reported to the BOE that "obviously" PTAs are involved and this SIP process is carried out throughout the year, most of the respondents were unaware and had not been included in the development. Thus far, no response.

8) **Superintendent Search** – HYA, the firm hired to conduct the Superintendent Search held several community input sessions and held one meeting specifically with MCCPTA Board of Directors (BOD). The BOD members were particularly concerned about the timeline of the search and lack of clarity on credentials/job description.

9) **National/Free State** – On November 27, I filed an affidavit in the case of National PTA vs. LaTonja Carrera (President of MDPTA) regarding an actions taken that resulted in funds being taken from the MCCPTA bank account by the State of Maryland without proper authorization, related to dissolving the organization.

10) **MCCPTA Representation on Working Groups** – MCCPTA is asked to participate on a number of countywide working groups. Some are codified in regulation (e.g., Curriculum Advisory Assembly or Accelerated and Enriched Instruction Committee). Others are MCPS-created groups to enhance engagement (e.g., strategic initiatives working group, student welfare committee, covid operations advisory team). Recently, I've started asking MCPS who they have as the MCCPTA representatives and many of these groups include individuals that have not held MCCPTA leadership roles in several years though they may still be attending these meetings. I've mentioned to the Associate Sups of these affected groups and will be asking the MCCPTA Board to assist in "crowd sourcing" all the working groups we participate in, identifying the reps, and we do a better job of updating representation for the system going forward.