To: MCCPTA Board of Directors

From: Gail Ravnitzky Silberglied, Chair, Virtual Learning Ad Hoc Subcommittee

Date: February 9, 2021

**RE: Virtual Learning Committee Report #2**

Note: if you missed our 1st Committee Report submitted on January 25, you can access it [here](https://docs.google.com/document/d/19wXW8JVKiUYJ97yF9l3Ft_M1rw-E_a_XN1fR_T8GFmk/edit).

**OVERVIEW**

* **About this Committee**—The Ad Hoc Subcommittee on Virtual Learning is a temporary MCCPTA committee created in August, 2020 to advocate for all MCPS students operating in the virtual learning environment.
* **Meetings**—Recent Committee meetings took place via Zoom on Thursday, January 7, Monday, January 25, Monday, February 8, and the next meeting is Thursday, February 11.

**RECENT ACTIVITIES**

* **Special Education**—In collaboration with Special Education Committee co-Chairs Rachel Tate and Stephanie Frumkin, we took the following actions:
	+ We hosted a MCCPTA [**Town Hall Meeting**](https://zoom.us/rec/share/fIs3dMPUrfd3nz4xG3jPGeu40OUscOF4vYOD-rfFI-DTkEifaAJpk5UQmJ5yLHlr.6oV2sQFkEWlVjFqg) (use this passcode: WnD#!2vP to access the recording) on Special Education on Monday, February 1. Nearly 200 people registered and many people watched it on Facebook Live. Several local elected officials, school board members, and MCPS officials participated.
	+ Our [**Petition**](http://bit.ly/PTA-petition) for an emergency solution for kids with special needs got over 550 signatures in just 10 days.
	+ We produced a 20-minute video of [**Parent Testimonials**](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tgg4Nj3en28&feature=youtu.be) which was shown at the Town Hall Meeting.

* **MCPS Communications**--Many families are extremely frustrated by the lack of clarity, consistency, and transparency coming from MCPS communications. We are writing a letter (or resolution) to recommend changes. More information will be shared at the MCCPTA Board meeting.
* **Outdoor Space**—We continue to press for a meeting on the role that Outdoor Space can play in MCPS. These optional structures could be used for arrival/departure, mask-breaks, recess, outdoor lunch, and high exposure classes such as PE and music. We have repeatedly requested a meeting with Essie McGuire, MCPS Associate Superintendent for Operations.
* **Mental Health**—In cooperation with Mental Health and Wellness Subcommittee Chair Helga Luest, we are writing to the Montgomery County Council to share our concerns about the mental health and wellness of MCPS students and suggest that more resources will be needed to address the looming mental health crisis. This follows feedback from several meetings with MCPS staff.

Please reach out with any questions, suggestions, or feedback at VirtualLearning@mccpta.org.