

April Meetings/Conference Calls:

- 4/12 – CIP testimony at County Council
- 4/12 – MCCPTA BOD Meeting
- 4/14 – MCCPTA Performing Arts Festival
- 4/16 – Executive Board Meeting with Dr. Smith
- 4/16 – Meeting with Dr. Navarro and GTA on student opportunities and concerns
- 4/17 – District Assessment Committee Meeting
- 4/22 – MCCPTA/MCPS Mental Health & Wellness Forum
- 4/23 – BOE Candidate Forum
- 4/26 – Delegates Assembly and MCCPTA elections
- 4/30 – MCCPTA GCC & GTA Meeting with MCPS on magnet concerns

April Activity Summary:

Curriculum Update/Survey – Several key meetings occurred in the last month related to moving away from 2.0 to a purchased curriculum. If you “geek out” on curriculum matters (and you know you do), this site is for you: <http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/curriculum/curriculum-review.aspx> This includes:

- Overview of the change that is occurring and access to the Johns Hopkins review (that is spurring the change in curriculum).
- Access to a survey so parents can weigh in on what should be considered during the selection process.
- Copy of the RFP for vendors interested in bidding.
- Curriculum selection timeline.
- Rollout timeline.

Math: It wouldn't be a report from me if there wasn't a reference to math! One thing I'm very excited about is the news that the curriculum being purchased will include an Algebra 1 component that will be available at the high school. THIS MEANS – kids that took Algebra 1 in middle school but didn't master the content can take Algebra 1 again in high school BUT they won't be seeing the same course content they saw in middle school. Every high school math teacher I've spoken to has said “this is good!” Second point I'd like to stress with regard to Algebra 1 and this transition to high school – **PARENTS, if you think your child would do well to take Algebra 1 again, HAVE THEM TAKE IT AGAIN!** A parent told me this week that because their child got a C in their middle school Algebra 1 course, the student isn't *allowed* to take the course again in high school. GAH! I'd be interested in hearing if this is a widespread practice. Drop me a note – vpeducation@mccpta.org

Middle School Electives: Last month, I was a little startled to learn how many of the electives listed in the middle course bulletin are actually not available at many of our schools. <http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/uploadedFiles/curriculum/middleschool/2018-2019MiddleSchoolCourseBulletin.pdf.pdf> No reasonable person should expect every course to be available but ensuring there are diverse offerings may be a conversation for cluster coordinators and middle school PTA Presidents to have with the middle schools in the coming year. Many parents are particularly interested in seeing schools offer computer science/tech and world language options starting in 6th grade. Let's keep this conversation going...

Office of Shared Accountability (OSA) Reports: Those that know me know I just LOVE OSA! So much great information that helps MCPS make sense to someone like me! I am particularly interested in the safety and security information that was posted recently. From the link below, you can access your school's safety report or download the full report and peruse to your heart's content! In light of our recent mental health forum (and conversations about the impact bullying has on a student's mental health), I found it very interesting to see the

high school bullying incidents being reported (or not reported) in this publication. It is shocking to see high schools posting zero incidents year after year after year. I think that is worth another conversation...

<http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/departments/sharedaccountability/safetyglance/>

MCPS Policies and Regulations: This month, a few regulations were updated that may be of interest to our gentle readers. If you like to keep up on these kinds of updates, bookmark this site --

<http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/departments/policy/index.aspx>

- ABA-RC, ***Vendors On or Near School Premises*** updated April 2018.
- IEA, ***Framework and Structure of Early Childhood and Elementary Education*** updated April 2018.
- JEE-RA, ***Student Transfers and Administrative Placement*** updated April 2018.

MCPS Magnets: I don't want to be repetitive of the good work being done by the MCCPTA Gifted Child Committee (GCC) so I'm mostly just going to point and say "see Lang Lin's GCC report." The group is doing a great job advocating on behalf of students and giving parents a platform to express concerns about elements of the recent selection process that just aren't making sense. More to come on that...

High School Science Requirements: As part of the move to the Next Generation Science Standards, we now have a state requirement to move from the biology HSA that was required for graduation to the more comprehensive Maryland Integrated Science Assessment (MISA) test that is administered after a student has completed 3 science courses. MCPS graduation requirements (by year) show how this has been transitioning over the last several years. Interested parties can review the graduation requirements here and the bottom of the first page provides information on what is required for a particular graduating class

– <http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/curriculum/graduation-requirements.aspx> If you look at each of the graduation requirement documents, the rising class of 2022 (current 8th graders) will be the first class required to *PASS* the MISA to meet the graduation requirement. Just putting this on everyone's radar!