

Since January 1-- Meetings/Calls/Events:

- 1/4 MCCPTA Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Committee Discussion
- 1/4 MCCPTA Operating Budget Prep
- 1/7 Antiracism Audit Steering Committee Meeting (part 1)
- 1/8 MCEA Legislative Kick-off Session
- 1/11 Antiracism Audit Steering Committee Meeting (part 2)
- 1/11 Upcounty Citizens Advisory Board – SRO Discussion
- 1/11 BOE Operating Budget Testimony
- 1/12 MCCPTA Safe Tech Committee Meeting w/OCTO
- 1/13 Channel 4 -- Interview
- 1/13 MCCPTA Board of Directors meeting
- 1/15 Deputy Superintendent Advisory Committee (DSAG)
- 1/15 MCCPTA Comms Committee w/MCPS Comms Team
- 1/17 MCCPTA Family Engagement – Anti-Racism Audit Discussion
- 1/19 BOE Operating Budget Testimony
- 1/20 Excomm Meeting with Superintendent
- 1/21 OFSE Meeting – Virtual Learning Supports
- 1/25 MCCPTA Nutrition Subcommittee – Health School Food Maryland Collaboration
- 1/26 Delegates Assembly
- 1/27 MCCPTA Training – Nominating Committee
- 1/28 MCCPTA Special Education Committee Meeting with Kevin Lowndes
- 1/29 Recovery Education Meeting – Montgomery College, USG, Independent Schools, Etc.
- 1/30 Excomm – Planning Meeting
- 2/1 MCCPTA Virtual Learning/Special Education -- Townhall
- 2/1 MCCPTA Diversity Equity and Inclusion -- Discussion
- 2/3 MCCPTA Virtual Learning/Special Education - Debrief
- 2/3 Magruder Cluster Meeting
- 2/5 MCCPTA Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Committee Meeting w/Ed Clarke & Karen Stratman
- 2/5 MCCPTA Health and Wellness -- Discussion
- 2/7 MCCPTA DEI Debrief

Top 10 -- Activities/Concerns:

- 1) **MDPTA Concerns/National PTA** – National PTA assured Council leaders they had the full participation of the MDPTA leadership and all bank accounts were being closely monitored. National requested Councils encourage locals to pay dues and bring PTAs into compliance. On February 5, MDPTA sent correspondence to local units that was not authorized by National regarding on February 15th. No response yet on how National will address the breach of the restructuring agreement. NEXT UP – Bylaws amendments for MDPTA!
- 2) **Virtual Meeting Guidelines** – Prepared ppt outlining options (to be included in BOD slide deck) based on the MDPTA Virtual Meeting Guidelines.
- 3) **School Resource Officers (SRO)** – MCCPTA has been asked to engage in discussions related to SROs. Rob Wilcox, MCCPTA Chair of School Climate and Safety, has been serving on the SRO work group with MCPS. Related, MCCPTA's Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion committee has developed a resolution (currently being reviewed by Delegates with their PTAs). It is clear from the discussions, there is a great deal of confusion about the role of the SRO vs. Security Assistants that are assigned to the school.

- 4) **Anti-Racism Audit** – The system is kicking off the Anti-Racism audit and MCCPTA has two “seats at the table” steering this discussion. In the two meetings thus far, the team spent time ensuring everyone had similar understanding and definition for the four levels of racism –
 - Internalized Racism – Occurs within individuals and groups. Multi-generational process of dehumanization that can manifest as inferiority within people of color and as superiority within white people.
 - Interpersonal Racism – Between people. Exemplified by words or actions.
 - Institutional Racism – Within institutions. Unfair policies and treatment. Inequitable opportunities.
 - Structural Racism – Across institutions. Includes history.
- 5) **To Open or Not To Open** – This question creates an intense emotional response for individuals affected. MCCPTA continues to advocate for transparency and clarity around the reopening plans – building readiness, class structure/plans, execution of plans, etc.
- 6) **Recovery Education** – I’ve continued to participate with the Recovery Education team that is made up of the broader county leaders – County Council, MCPS, Montgomery College, USG, Independent Schools, HHS, etc. on how to best support students going forward. January discussions centered on vaccines.
- 7) **Ombudsman** – MCCPTA Executive Committee continues to ask MCPS question regarding the current Ombudsman office. When families raise concerns with a school, if the initial response is not satisfactory for the family, the process becomes very circular with the inability to easily elevate and have an impartial review of a situation. MCCPTA has included the following in the 20-21 Advocacy Priorities, “Designate an impartial ombudsman to guide families in navigating the complexities of the system and ensure fair treatment.” MCPS reported to the excomm in January the position has not warranted a full-time staff member to serve as an Ombudsman, thus the reason our current MCPS Ombudsman splits her responsibilities between Chief of Staff and Ombudsman. We have sent forward documents from other public school Ombudsman offices to demonstrate the contrast.
- 8) **Option to Reduce Course Load and Opt to Take Classes Pass/Fail** – S-U-C-C-E-S-S!! The last few months, worked with the Curriculum committee to advocate for relief for students struggling under the weight of a full schedule in a pandemic structure. In January, MCCPTA received confirmation MCPS will provide flexibility to students on both efforts without impact to the student GPAs and transcripts. Curriculum Committee will continue to follow up on details, especially definition of “required for HS graduation.” MCPS has made this retroactive to 1st semester and is aiming to have pathways in place by February 16th for students that wish to adjust their 1st semester courses from letter to Pass/Fail or drop courses without showing the course on their transcript.
- 9) **Food Security** – Followed up with the MCCPTA Nutrition Subcommittee and partners on opportunities to support better food distribution services. Coordinated efforts with Black and Brown Coalition, Identity, and Gaithersburg leadership to discuss with Healthy School Food Maryland grant options to help better support families. Further, supported efforts to allow volunteers to pick up and deliver meals to families. RELATED -- MCPS Policy Committee proposed a [new draft policy Board Policy JPH, School Food and Nutrition Services Programs](#), and is seeking public comment from now until February 12, 2021. The presentation reviewed by the Board on December 3, 2020 is available [here](#). Comments can be submitted [here](#). Several PTAs have supported community garden/school garden efforts.
- 10) **Administrative Follow Up Actions** – Followed up on items related to health of organization. ~20 PTAs have not paid dues from 19-20 school year (being followed up to see if monies were miscredited by accident). Also pulled participation reports for Board members for the year to ensure we are following our bylaws (missing no more than 2 meetings without excuse – note, CCs are excused as long as one of the CCs is present; Committee Chairs are excused if a Vice Chair attends in their stead). Officers followed up with affected individuals.