

**November -- Meetings/Calls/Events:**

12/2 BOE Meeting  
12/3 Maryland Attorney General's Office – MDPTA Unauthorized Transaction on Bank Account  
12/6 Excomm  
12/7 BOE Chief of Staff – Discussion on Roberts Rules of Order, Newly Revised  
12/8 Antiracist Audit Steering Committee Meeting  
12/9 MCPS OHRD (Temp PT; Compliance Protocols)  
12/9 Covid Advisory Team Meeting (COAT)  
12/9 MCCPTA BOD Meeting  
12/13 Budget Advisory Team  
12/15 Safety and Security Briefing (MCPS, BOE, MCPS, CE Office; County Council Members)  
12/31 Debrief – MCPS Chief of Staff  
01/4 Budget Advisory Committee  
1/6 Covid Advisory Team Meeting (COAT)  
1/8 MCCPTA Operating Budget Workshop  
1/9 Townhall – MCPS Operations (request for plan that is clear, timely and transparent)  
1/10 BOE Operating Budget Hearings – 1 of 2  
1/11 Covid Advisory Team Meeting (COAT)  
1/12 Vaccine partners  
1/14 BOE Chief of Staff – Logistics Discussion  
1/18 MCPS OHRD (Temp PT, Compliance Protocols, Substitute – Process Feedback)  
1/18 BOE Operating Budget Hearings – 2 of 2  
1/19 Student Welfare Committee Meeting – Athletics/Clubs designations  
1/19 Excomm Meeting with Interim Superintendent  
1/19 MCCPTA BOD Meeting  
Many Interviews with media outlets on range of topics

**Key Activities/Concerns:**

- 1) **COAT – Advisory Role** – Prior to the break I learned the dashboard was being updated by **tallying data points by sifting through email and taking phone calls, an incredibly inefficient method of tracking data** and is unresponsive to the requests we've been making for months to have clear and transparent reporting to the community. School systems, far less resourced than ours, have far more efficient systems to keep their communities informed. Some have very simple reporting mechanisms. The Howard County page as an example that shows daily updates, by school (and countywide numbers). <https://covid.hcps.org/> Howard County provides a simple spreadsheet based that is forward facing, by day. MCPS has since begun posting daily pdfs but it is still not an effective window into the case trends. RELATED – MCPS has halted all contact tracing and no information regarding what grade/class positive cases are in – which is concerning for families seeing cases posted but unsure about whether students have been exposed to COVID. More coming...
- 2) **COAT/Vaccine Sites** – I've been working with MCPS to get hard copies of the "Yes to the Test" to vaccine sites being held across our county. Only about 1/3 of our students (and very, very few staff) have been enrolled in the random screening. I've sent several recommendations (via Covid Advisory Team -- COAT) aiming to reduce some of the obvious barriers to access including removing (or making optional) the student identification.
- 3) **School Security and Safety** – Mid-December, MCPS convened a first meeting with County Council, MCPD, BOE, and other public officials to begin a response to the MCCPTA's list of questions surrounding the removal of the SROs and how MCPS and County are supporting the increased social-emotional and security supports within our schools. I forwarded to the MCPS Chief of Staff key points and at the January 13 BOE meeting, this [memo](#) was generated and addressed some (not all) of the questions. To watch the discussion, go to 6:20:00 [here](#) (yes, over 6 hours into the meeting...).

- 4) **MCPS Operating Budget** – The last couple of months have involved meetings of 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. There are concerns I have about the process MCPS followed (masking the categorical costs; only discussing the budget in general, non-fiscal terms). I've included those comments in testimony for the Budget Hearings. **I believe MCCPTA should advocate for transparency and clear reporting around where the ESSR dollars are being spent** in addition to the regular operating budget advocacy. The work sessions now being conducted by the BOE (and the Council sessions coming later this spring) are opportunities for this advocacy to be able to see current staffing in addition to changes being proposed.
- 5) **MDPTA/Free State** – As mentioned last month, MCCPTA had an unauthorized charge, initiated by the former PTA state affiliate (MDPTA) to dissolve several dozen PTAs in the state. National PTA attorneys requested affidavits of several of our PTAs, including me as a representative of MCCPTA. That effort failed and funds were returned (with the exception of a \$3 processing fee). RELATED, National has made an opportunity available to Maryland PTAs to become affiliated with Delaware PTA while we await Free State IRS designation. We will discuss this further in upcoming meetings.
- 6) **Superintendent Selection Process** – Underway this winter – MCCPTA Board provided input to the consultant managing the process, HYA. I will represent MCCPTA on the community panel. Selection is anticipated to occur in the March/April timeframe.
- 7) **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 Supts 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.
- 8) **Athletics: School-Sponsored/Community-Sponsored** – There is a very blurred line when a community team wears the name/colors/mascot of a MCPS High School. MCPS is very clear about the distinction when there are issues that arise, often related to child welfare. In discussions during the Student Welfare Committee, it is expected the principal takes responsibility for distinguishing for the community what is school-sponsored vs. community-sponsored teams. How can we do this better?