

November -- Meetings/Calls/Events:

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
11/30 Delegates Assembly
12/2 BOE Meeting
12/3 Maryland Attorney General's Office – MDPTA Unauthorized Transaction on Bank Account
12/6 Excomm
Many Interviews with media outlets on range of topics

Top 10 Activities/Concerns:

- 1) **School Security and Safety** – In response to the MCCPTA BOD request for a meeting the Board is now slated to meet with Interim Superintendent along with a long list of other Council, BOE, and other public officials on December 15. We forwarded a memo with a long 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.
- 2) **MCPS Budget Advisory – Concerns about Process**, 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). **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.
- 3) **BOE – Concerns about Oversight** – On December 2, those of us that watched the BOE meeting are aware MCPS Interim Superintendent put forward a resolution requesting changes to the 20-21 calendar. The information was only made available to the Board just before the meeting, eliminating any opportunity for the Board to do a thorough review of the request (not to mention, get public input). From the [BOE Handbook](#),
“Preparation of Meeting Materials Before every business meeting, materials are prepared for Board members and key staff. Board materials are not released to the public until after Board members have received them. Board meeting materials normally are available online to the public on the Friday prior to regular Board business meetings. Items that require extensive study should be distributed to Board members in advance of the regular distribution of Board materials, to allow sufficient time for review and consideration by Board members.”

Granted, the Friday before this December 2 meeting was part of the Thanksgiving holiday, but what we saw was a rushed resolution by MCPS and several board members trying to move a motion without proper review. There was also a clear misunderstanding of their ability to table the motion and/or bring back in special session before the next BOE meeting, if action is needed immediately. (What occurred included several infractions of Robert's Rules that has resulted in the BOE having to call a special session ANYWAY just to clean up procedural missteps.)

- 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. On December 3, spoke with the Maryland Attorney General's office.
- 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.