



**October 26, 2010**

**Resolution on FY2012 Operating Budget Priorities**

Whereas, MCCPTA's mission is to speak for children and without question our highest budget priority is education;

Be it resolved that the MCCPTA Delegates approve the following operating budget priorities for the organization to concentrate on this budget year each item to be given due consideration in relation to the others:

No reductions in maintenance, building service, or security staff to maintain safe, secure, and healthful schools.

Judicious curriculum rollout; no new curriculum without adequate staff development, materials, and technology.

No further increase in class sizes,

Full implementation of hours-based staffing for special education students,

Continued support for after school activities,

and

No reductions in academic intervention, focus, reading, ESOL, or special program teachers.

## **Back Ground on Operating Budget Priorities:**

MCCPTA officers visited PTA leadership in each area of the county in June and July, 2011. The list of priorities represents the most frequently mentioned concerns. Below are further details on each item.

### **No reductions in maintenance, building service, or security staff to maintain safe, secure, and healthful schools.**

- Devoting resources to the classroom includes devoting resources to ensuring a classroom environment that facilitates learning. Components of a good learning environment include:

- well-maintained classrooms free of mold, vectors, and other contaminants
- freedom from bullying and gang activities
- reasonably limited access to school facilities
- more securities resource officers.

### **Judicious curriculum rollout; no new curriculum without adequate staff development, materials, and technology.**

- Parents around the County continue to have concerns about the way major curriculum reforms are implemented, including the integrated elementary school curriculum, middle school advance courses leading to high school credit, and the accelerated math curriculum. Adequate supports would include:

- more assistance to students in filling in gaps in their background
- more teacher training BEFORE introducing the changes
- adequate instructional materials.

**No further increase in class sizes** - Until FY 2011, MCPS had made progress toward reducing class sizes. In a period of tight budgets it is important to protect that progress against further budget cuts.

**Full implementation of hours-based staffing for special education students**-As budget pressures force class sizes up, hours-based staffing for students with learning differences is especially important to minimize adverse impacts on both these students and general education students.

**Continued support for after school activities** - After school programs are important both to provide additional learning and enrichment opportunities, and to extend the protections of the school community environment to students beyond the school day. The latter is an important component of gang prevention.

**No reductions in academic intervention teachers, focus teachers, reading teachers, or special program teachers.**- Especially in light of other budget cuts in recent years, it is crucial to have these additional teaching resources to fill in the gaps for students needing re-enforcement of existing classes, or above- or below- grade level learning opportunities. .

