

March Meetings/Conference Calls:

- 3/5 – MCCPTA Curriculum Meeting with MCPS OCIP
- 3/5 – MCCPTA Executive Committee Meeting with Dr. Smith

March Activity Summary:

Curriculum Review Results – Last spring, MCPS put out a contract to have 2.0 curriculum reviewed. The results of that review were delivered at the March 22nd board meeting. I'll point to Amanda Graver's curriculum report for MCCPTA members to get further details but, one point I want to make – in a recent meeting with Nicky Diamond, MCPS CFO, I asked about the rollout. They anticipated this report and had already increased the professional development dollars in the 19 Operating Budget (that passed before this report was delivered) so we are ready (financially) to support the immediate rollout of alternate curriculum materials this summer. THIS IS IMPORTANT!

If you want to “watch the movie,” outlining the concerns and recommendations for MCPS curriculum, check out 12.1 of this board meeting.

[https://www.boarddocs.com/mabe/mcpsmd/Board.nsf/files/AX5HMA48778D/\\$file/Curr%20Review%20JHU%20Rpt%20Exec%20Summary.pdf](https://www.boarddocs.com/mabe/mcpsmd/Board.nsf/files/AX5HMA48778D/$file/Curr%20Review%20JHU%20Rpt%20Exec%20Summary.pdf)

Middle School Math: I will not stop reporting on this because I think this is so important...! Since February, we've been asking MCPS to help us understand the “support classes” by sharing the extent these courses are being accessed at the middle school (still no countywide numbers, but I encourage middle schools to ask their schools directly – I did!). Can we see the benefit of the support class? Are the numbers going down each year as a result?

Do parents understand why students are being recommended/placed in “support classes?” And, are we sensitive to and adequately addressing the social-emotional impacts that some kids are reportedly experiencing when losing electives in middle school to take an accelerated math course? This is definitely an area we want to continue to (as Dr. Smith would say) “shine a flashlight on” so parents really understand what is occurring and can effectively advocate for their student.

Choice Study, Magnet Admissions: Lang Lin, MCCPTA Gifted Child Chair has been following this closely. MCCPTA has been teaming with Gifted Talented Association of Montgomery County (GTAMC) to ensure students that were part of the down county middle school pilot have appropriate options for next school year. Rather than repeating, I'll point folks to Lang's reports for details but will provide one point – this is simply the beginning. This move to put “magnet-like” courses in the middle school is a HUGE benefit – creating options for our students and ensuring all students have appropriate programming available. Stay tuned!

MCPS Policies and Regulations: This might just be me, but I was SHOCKED to find this index of regulations. I was ever MORE shocked to find ~70 regulations before I got out of the letter “A!” Seriously! But, if you “geek out” on things like this... I suggest you check out this site!

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

Blog Post: Speaking of regulations, last month I mentioned a change in the regulation surrounding Grade Point Average and Weighted Grade Point Average. See this post for more on that change on the MCCPTA website --

<https://mccptaadvocacy.blogspot.com/>