

Summer 2017 – MCCPTA President’s Report

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Overview

The focus of MCCPTA since April 25 has been doing the business of the organization, while addressing the financial and other issues from the 2016-17 year. All six area meetings were very successful – providing an opportunity both to update our PTA communities about important ongoing issues, while also facilitating discussion of the concerns and issues percolating in each community. Working with MCPS we’ve provided many opportunities for our members, and cluster coordinators etc. to engage on the evolving development of the new Key Facilities Indicators and facility evaluation process that will replace the old CIP queue/FACS scores.

We’ve also worked to inform and engage members about the ongoing work of the Kirwan Commission (Commission on Excellence and Innovation in Education) – which is undertaking a wholesale review of Maryland’s public education funding formulas, and also evaluating a wide range of public education policy issues. They will issue a final report in December, impacts on MCPS could be profound.

Meetings/Events attended

June:

- 1 – MCCPTA BOD & exec. Comm.
- 6 – policy review meeting – MCPS
- 13- MCCC dinner
- 19- MCCPTA Spring Training
- 26 – Council Ed. Comm. OLO
NEC/Sherwood summer area mtg
- 27 – Council Ed. Comm. Early childhood

July:

- 10 – DCC Summer area mtg
Mtg with Marc Elrich
- 12 – Mtg. with Dr. Erick Lang
- 13 – BCC/WJ/WW summer area mtg
- 15 – MCCPTA exec. Comm. mtg
- 17 – Council Ed. Comm. Early child
- 19 – Clarksburg et. al area mtg
- 20 - Mtg with Craig Rice
Churchill et al sum. area mtg
- 21 – Mtg. with Dr. Smith
- 25 – Mtg. with Dr. Statham
- 27 – Op. Budget mtg
Mtg. with Derek Turner
Mtg. with Josh Civin
MDPTA Board meeting
- 27-29 – MDPTA Convention

August:

- 10 – Gaithersburg et. al summer area mtg
MCCPTA exec. Comm. mtg
- 12 – MDPTA BOD mtg
- 13 – MCCPTA exec. Comm. f/u mtg
- 23 – pre-K forum
- 24 – CIP update mtg – Paint Branch
- 28 – NEC/Sherwood summer slam
- 30 – MCCPTA Op. Budget meeting
- 31 - BOE mtg – CIP update

Projects/Issues

Many organizations have approached MCCPTA to partner on important issues – anti-bullying, safe and respectful dating, quality out-of-school time activities for all ages, expanding early childhood education in the county, civic engagement. One goal I have is to facilitate connections between those groups and our local PTAs, and relevant MCCPTA committees, to make it easier for us individually and collectively to work on the issues we care about.

We'll be highlighting a lot of those organizations, and providing time to connect with them, at Fall Training on Sept. 16.

Kirwan:

The Kirwan commission has been meeting for over a year now, to evaluate Maryland's public school funding methods, and identify areas in which our schools need to innovate in order to serve our students better.

Initial funding recommendations made by the consultants working with the Commission (report issued in December 2016 – links shared widely last Spring) were very concerning – if implemented they would drastically reduce state public education funding for Montgomery County – not because we should spend less on public education, but because of restructuring formulas which would require the county to pay far more for schools, and the state to pay far less. The analysis of the four Montgomery County members of the Commission (Senator Rich Madaleno, Senator Nancy King, Delegate Anne Kaiser, Councilmember Craig Rice) is that those initial recommendations will not go far (because, among other things, the consultant's recommendations are purely theoretical – they have never been implemented anywhere) – but the Commission's work on the funding piece is still evolving.

Policy recommendations likely to emerge in the final report go to drastically increasing the quality and availability of pre-K state-wide, and innovative ways to further professionalize the teacher workforce. The Commission is closely looking at states whose students outperform Maryland - Massachusetts, New Jersey and New Hampshire --- and also countries who spend less per student on education, but whose students appear to outperform US students.

The Commission is holding a series of four public meetings in September and October:

Sept. 14 – Stevensville

Oct. 12 - Baltimore

Sept. 28 – Frederick

Oct. 25 – Upper Marlboro

Ideally we would have a presence at each. We will share the details of each meeting and encourage PTAers to attend, sign-up to testify, listen, and learn. We will also watch the Commission meetings closely, staying in touch with our Montgomery County representatives on the Commission, in order to understand what the Commission is likely recommend, so that our advocacy can be nimble and proactive

Committee needs:

We've done a great job recruiting MCCPTA committee members and committee chairs, but we still need some crucial committee Chairs. Among them – operating budget, advocacy, ESOL, multicultural awareness, Principals and presidents event, awards.