Curriculum Committee Report Submitted by: Michelle Gluck

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**Meetings/Calls/Events**

9/17 Curriculum Advisory Assembly\*

10/5 MSDE GT Advisory Committee meeting

10/6 OCIP/OSI Meeting re admission process for criteria-based programs

**Upcoming**

10/13 BOD Meeting

TBD Curriculum Committee meeting

Wow, hard to believe it’s already halfway through MP1. My biggest news item is that the Curriculum committee will be announcing a meeting schedule just as soon as I figure out how to manage the zoom invitation process.

**Key Activities/Concerns**

1. **Suppression of MCCPTA voice in Curriculum planning and implementation**

Last month, OTLS announced that it was suspending its former practice of allowing associate superintendents to meet with MCCPTA leaders and committee chairs to discuss subjects of mutual concern and interest, in favor of quarterly system-wide meetings with all community groups addressing all areas of interest. As a result, we have had no meetings with OCIP leadership to date, other than to address one subject of their choosing. We feel this is a major loss to both sides of the conversation, as we believe we were providing useful information to OCIP leadership along with raising concerns of our membership. President Simonson has been leading MCCPTA’s response to this radical change in access.

1. **Lack of transparency in placement decisions**

As most of you likely know, MCPS developed guidance for what they euphemistically describe as “curriculum adjustments” in core subjects to accommodate the limited amount of instructional time available in the virtual schedule last year. It gradually became apparent that this “guidance” was exactly that – optional, not systematic – and each school or even teacher was allowed to decide whether and how much to actually cut from the standard curriculum. In addition, of course, some students self-taught or otherwise acquired the missing material outside of school.

We spent countless hours over much of the spring semester and early summer urging MCPS to develop *clear criteria* to be used when *individually assessing* students for level-appropriate placement in classes for 2021-22 as part of the recovery plan. To no one’s surprise, they didn’t (or, if they did, those criteria are yet another well-kept secret.) In addition to the fact that there doesn’t seem to be any systematic approach to recovery in any subject except math, it is unclear to us whether the math placement decisions are being made centrally or locally, and what criteria are being used by whoever is making those decisions.

MCPS has made little if any effort to assess students for placement or learning loss in any subject except math.