

**Questions for MCPS on School Safety and Security**  
**MCCPTA Delegates Assembly**  
**February 27, 2018**

*These questions were submitted by parents across the County through the MCCPTA listserv.*

- 1. Are School Resource Officers present at all schools? Are they armed?**
- 2. What is MCPS' policy on armed personnel on school grounds?**
- 3. What is MCPS' position on the President's proposal to arm teachers?**  
Has MCPS taken a formal position with respect to the President's proposal to arm teachers with guns as a solution to the ongoing school shooting tragedies?
- 4. What is the status of the MCPS review of school safety and security? How might we expect MCPS's safety/security response to evolve in response to the review as well as recent events?**
- 5. How will MCPS improve security for students and staff in portables?**  
The lack of security for students and staff in portables is a significant concern. How are portables protected in an active shooter scenario? Are there plans to increase levels of protection in these vulnerable settings?
- 6. How can MCPS ensure the protection of elementary school children during lunch and recess?**  
How can or should elementary schools ensure the safety of students during the unstructured times of lunch and recess when there are only a handful of adults available for over a hundred students? Is there a way to increase the number of aides? What unique ways are elementary schools addressing this safety dilemma?
- 7. What is MCPS doing to help support students' mental health?**  
Right now, the focus is, understandably, on school safety - how do we keep people who want to do our children harm out of the school. But I think the larger question is how do we help those students who may want to do others harm to get the needed mental health support they need. What is MCPS, on its own or in coordination with HHS, health centers, NAMI, the hospitals, and County resources, doing to support students' mental health, helping students deal with trauma and stress? The school safety conversation is important, but locking the doors only pushes harmful behavior outside, it doesn't stop it.  
  
Is there a comprehensive inventory of programs supporting student mental health and wellness? Are there any plans in place to evaluate effectiveness and ensure equity in the provision of effective programs to all students?
- 8. How are staff trained to identify troubled students?**  
What resources are available to parents concerned about their students' behavior? Is there, or should there be, an "obligation to report" for staff who identify potential signs of violence as there is for suspicions of abuse?

**9. How does MCPS document, report and keep track of Serious Incident (SI) data?**

What is the protocol for responding to and documenting SI events? What does MCPS do with the data? Is it sent to State and Federal authorities? How does this data inform programming decisions? The system must be transparent and operate with honesty and integrity. Are there plans underway to develop a SI data base/protocol/process to accurately document each and every student and staff incident? To what extent is this data shared with the community/public?

Information should include:

- violent acts (verbal and physical);
- fighting and/or aggressive physical aggression
- weapons of all kinds
- intruders on campus
- drugs and alcohol
- referrals to crisis center
- withdrawals from and leaving school before graduation
- credit recovery completions
- loss of credit courses

**10. Is gun violence prevention addressed in the curriculum (beyond drills)?**

**11. Can we prioritize conflict resolution training in our curriculum at all levels?**

MCPS leadership must spend more time supporting kids and school staff by exploring effective, innovative programming. They must implement and practice restorative and peaceful approaches when dealing with kids and staff concerns. There has been some concern that certain schools have opted not to include the restorative justice program when it has been offered.

**12. How do schools secure rooms with substitute teachers?**

In most schools, subs are never given keys to rooms.

**13. What technologies are being used to help keep everyone informed and safe?**

This goes for both students in the school and parents away from the school.

**14. What is MCPS' position on metal detectors? How much would it cost to install them in all schools?**

**15. How can students help keep schools safe?**

In addition to "see something, say something", is there more students can be doing? Currently, some students are reprimanded for making false claims.

**16. What can parents do to help MCPS? How can we advocate to ensure that MCPS has what it needs to protect our kids?**

Is there a budget gap that we can advocate to fill? We need a detailed picture so that our advocacy can be effective. What are your real constraints?

**17. What is MCPS' policy on student protest?**

Schools have responded differently to the walkouts in terms of excused/unexcused absences. Inasmuch as walkouts may continue to occur, we may need to do more to ensure that staff, students and families are all on the same page about what to expect in terms of consequences.

**18. Do/should PTAs have safety protocols/policies for PTA events held on school grounds?**