

Since February 1 -- Meetings/Calls/Events:

- 2/02 Interview with Fox News – Calendar <https://www.fox5dc.com/video/650910>
- 2/05 OSSI – Meeting with Statham
- 2/11 Interview with Washington Post – SRO/Security
- 2/11 MCEA Bargaining Session -- Guest
- 2/12 Curriculum Committee/OCIP Meeting
- 2/13 Curriculum Advisory Assembly (Topic: New Curriculum)
- 2/13 PTA Legislative Advocacy -- Annapolis
- 2/16 MCEA Parent Liaison Discussion (Topic: Teacher Engagement on PTA Boards/Membership)
- 2/18 Black & Brown Coalition Conference Call -- Discussion
- 2/20 Excomm Meeting with Dr. Smith (Topics: Family Engagement; Communications)
- 2/21 Meeting with MCPS Comms (Topics: Surveys, EAM Updates)
- 2/25 Delegates Assembly
- 3/10 BOE Public Comment (Topics: COVID-19 updates, Upcounty Transitions, Bridge Projects)
- 3/11 OSSI DLLA Interview Panel
- 3/11 WAMU Interview (Topic: COVID-19, Parent Concerns/Reaction)

Key Activities/Concerns:

- 1) **Transition** --- In mid-January, Lynne Harris resigned (per MCCPTA bylaws requirements for officers declaring candidacy for public office). Until 2/25, I functioned as the Acting President, as outlined in the MCCPTA bylaws, and on February 25th was installed as the President of the organization.
- 2) **Updated State MCAP “Passing” Requirements** – In February, MSDE provided the State BOE evidence students scoring a 3 or better on previous PARCC/MCAP demonstrated college/career readiness (as evidenced by their post-HS pursuits). As such, the State agreed to allow a “3+” to fulfill the HS assessment requirements. What does this mean? Well, we still will have challenges with Bridge Projects (alternate pathway for students that do not successfully pass the MCAP assessment) but the numbers will not be nearly as high as they would have been had we kept the “4+” requirement for students entering 9th grade for the first time in 20-21 school year.
- 3) **Communications** – This is a recurring theme in many of the meetings I attend. In this month’s meetings with the Superintendent (and a few days later with the communications team), we emphasized the need to review the communications through the lens of the intended audience. Are the words/phrasing being used in some of the surveys communicating as intended or do we need to move away from “education-speak” to better reach the targeted audience? Are we selecting times and giving enough notice for parents to actively engage? There is never going to be a time/place/timeline that will fit all schedules but are there some adjustments we can make (e.g., 1 week minimum notice for scheduling a new principal feedback meeting) to demonstrate commitment to engage the community in these conversations.
- 4) **Upcounty Transition** – While the MCCPTA Delegates voted during our advocacy priority discussion not take a position on the boundary analysis (and it has been our longstanding practice to stand down, as an organization, on all boundary study recommendations/decisions), I provided testimony at the March 10 BOD meeting asking for flexibility on the transitioning of students to the new neighborhood assignments. At present, current 6th and 9th graders are slated to attend new schools beginning next school year. I’ve asked the BOE to consider “grandfathering” those students that have already begun a “level” and giving the middle schoolers the option to wait and transition to the new neighborhood assignments when they enter the next level rather than “mid-level.” Essentially, this flexibility takes into account the social-emotional

aspects of the transitions. While some students will thrive in “reinventing” themselves and enjoy taking advantage of the new opportunities, we can’t dismiss the needs of those students that do not transition easily and are just getting their footing. No action, as yet. But, timing is important as master schedules and school-level staffing decisions will be made in the coming weeks.

5) **Delegates Assembly** – Prepared PPT to help delegates transmit information back to the local units including the following activities that may be of interest to Montgomery County PTAs:

- Announcements/Upcoming Events
 - **Respectfest**, March 29 1-4pm, Wheaton Community Rec Center – celebrate healthy relationships and raise awareness about violent relationships. One in three teens is a victim of physical, sexual, emotional, or verbal abuse.
 - **“Math Madness”** at MCCPTA Presents (March 24, before DA 6-7pm) – outlining the math pathways available and what parents need to know to effectively navigate and better understand the on-ramps (and off ramps) for students
 - **Alternative Schools** (Need PTAs to help “adopt” staff appreciation, etc.)
 - **Celebration of Excellence**, May 21 – MCCPTA’s big event of the year. Opportunity to celebrate the good work our PTAs are doing across the county.
- MCCPTA Officer Selection – Cynthia Simonson, President (finishing out term vacated by Lynne Harris) and Rodney Peele, VP of Educational Issues (finishing out term vacated by Cynthia Simonson)
 - Role of MCCPTA Nomination Committee
 - Local PTA board member recruitment season (consider teachers and students, for PTSAs, as possible candidates)
- Legislative Activity, Laura Stewart, VP Advocacy
- MCPS Org Chart
- Candidate Forum/Questionnaire – status update
- MCCPTA Committees – who are the chairs, vacancies, work underway
- Membership Report & Awards