

**OMCCPTA Advocacy Committee
2021-2022 Plan of Work**

Committee/Subcommittee: **Advocacy Committee**

Chair: **TBD**

MCCPTA e-mail address:

Phone:

Mission: To make every child’s potential a reality by engaging and empowering families and communities to advocate for all children.

Vision & Committee Charge

The Advocacy Committee (“the committee”), in conjunction with the VP of Advocacy, identifies priorities and concerns from the feedback of students and other members, and community stakeholders. The committee complies and shares the information with elected and appointed officials; plans and hosts events allowing PTA members to interact with elected officials; tracks and organizes testimony on county and state legislation and funding affecting students and schools. The committee works with students, Cluster Coordinators, and other impacted members from each cluster to develop and deliver testimony on the things that impact their lives and their education. The committee seeks to amplify the student voice at their local school, in the county, in the state legislature, and in the halls of Congress.

Committee Goals & Objectives

1. Develop the 2021-2022 MCCPTA Advocacy Priorities.
 - The committee will recruit leaders, to include students, who will:
 - monitor elected and appointed bodies for proposed actions that would impact on MCPS students and families,
 - establish communication channels with key decision makers, and other PT(S)A leaders in Montgomery County,
 - identify advocacy needs, and work with MCCPTA and MCPS leadership and the appropriate governing bodies to craft, implement, monitor, and refine solutions to address the identified needs.

Strategy - The committee will:

- review the priorities identified in each Committee’s plan of work,
- review the priorities identified by our student partners,
- schedule meetings as needed for discussion and clarification,
- formulate a 1st draft list of priorities, with particular focus on items with intersectionality between committees,
- compile and share the 2nd draft list of priorities, considering prior year priorities and emerging issues identified in the first draft,
- consult with the Cluster Coordinators and unit Presidents to get their feedback and specific supporting information/stories,
- share the resultant proposed priorities with the Executive Committee, the Board and, ultimately, the Delegates for edits, and

Deliverable – Presentation of the final draft of the proposed advocacy priorities for a vote at the November Delegate’s Assembly for approval.

2. Facilitate Committee and Cluster Testimony on the FY2023 Operating and CIP Budgets in alignment with the approved advocacy priorities.

Strategy - The committee will support the CIP and Operating Budget Committees to register and prepare PT(S)A leaders to testify in support of funding for priority projects and programs that support all students holistically.

Deliverable – Testimony from, at least, one representative of 90% of all clusters and MCPPTA committees, and at least one student representative of 50% of all clusters.

3. Facilitate legislative and policy advocacy in alignment with the approved advocacy priorities.

Strategy - To support the PTA mission of advocating for every child, the committee members will monitor and legislative and policy needs and proposed changes at all levels. The committee will consist of the at least one member focused on each of the following:

- Montgomery County Public Schools/Board of Education
- County Executive and Council
- State Board of Education/Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE)
- State Legislators, particularly the Montgomery County Delegation and the relevant House and Senate Committee Chairs and members.
- U.S. Department of Education and Federal legislators in conjunction with the Legislative Chairs/Committees at Free State PTA and National PTA.

Deliverable – Monthly updates on legislative and policy proposals, changes and trends to the Board and members, with more frequent updates as needed during the Maryland General Assembly session (January – April).

Committee Activities Timeline

Activity	Details	Timeframe/Deadline
Outreach and communications	Share information through listservs, email lists, and social media on at least a monthly basis. Consider an “Advocacy in Action” newsletter.	Ongoing
Meetings	Hold monthly virtual Advocacy Committee meetings September - June, with ad hoc meetings as needed.	Ongoing
Track County Council Committee Meetings	Observe Council, Education Committee, and other committee meetings as needed. Contact Council members to advocate for positions aligned with MCCPTA mission and Advocacy Priorities.	Ongoing
Maryland Local Bills Hearing: Testify and Provide Outreach	Testify as needed at the Maryland Local Bills Hearing	November
Connect with Policy Makers	Help facilitate a legislative breakfast, locally or in Annapolis, to share our point of view and enlist support for MCCPTA positions on proposed legislation. Meet with legislators as needed. Help facilitate testimony from various MCCPTA stakeholders.	Ongoing, with peaks in December - April

Track State Legislature	Track bills that will affect Montgomery County Schools or students.	December - April
Site visits	Facilitate tours of schools with significant issues, for BOE members, County Council members, and State legislators.	As needed
Updates and Advocacy Alerts	Keep the organization updated on the Legislation. Put out Advocacy Alerts when our priorities are being considered or are threatened.	Ongoing

Collaborations

1. Engage community partners to fill gaps in the provision of services that address the needs of the whole child.
2. Empower stakeholders to effectively advocate at the local, state, and national level.
3. Educate local PT(S)As about upcoming legislation.
4. Encourage local leaders to seek decision making positions to meet the needs of students and education.
5. Include representation from all geographical areas of MCCPTA, and various interest groups which represent our diverse community.
6. Work with the Operating Budget and CIP Chairs and alert them to possible legislation in the County and the State.
7. Help coordinate written and oral testimony during public comment period from stakeholders.
8. Work with the DEI committee to ensure equity and inclusion throughout MCCPTA Advocacy.

Committee Needs

Supplies Needed: Copies, virtual meeting platform

Vendor(s)/Supplier(s) (if applicable): Zoom Meetings, Montgomery Printing (or lowest bidder)

Date of Agreement/Contract: N/A

Budget requested: Request a budget of \$1,100

Item/Service Description	Amount
Legislative Reception in Annapolis	700.00
Copying	100.00
Other Legislative Advocacy (Recovery/Kirwan/Built to Learn Funds)	300.00
Total budget request	\$ 1,100.00

Approved by: Laura Mitchell Date: 8/23/2021