**President’s Report Submitted by: Cynthia Simonson**

**April 27, 2021 president@mccpta.org**

**Since March 1-- Meetings/Calls/Events:**

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| 3/2 | Safe Tech Committee Meeting with OCTO |
| 3/3 | School Food & Nutrition Meeting with Councilmember Gabe Albornoz and Team Rice |
| 3/3 | MCCPTA Curriculum Meeting |
| 3/3 | OHRD – Follow up on Principal Selection Process Meeting |
| 3/4 | BOE Testimony – School Resource Officers |
| 3/5 | Meeting with Deputy Superintendent |
| 3/7 | Excomm Meeting |
| 3/9 | Imagination Library |
| 3/10 | Discussion with Delegates from Cold Spring and Carderock Springs re: SRO process |
| 3/10 | Black and Brown Coalition Meeting |
| 3/10 | Antiracist Audit Advisory Group Meeting |
| 3/11 | BOE Meeting |
| 3/12 | DEI Committee Meeting |
| 3/16 | Meeting with Associate Area Superintendent – School Purchase Requests of PTAs |
| 3/18 | Meeting with Chief of Staff – MCCPTA SRO Resolution |
| 3/19 | MCCPTA Communications Committee meeting with MCPS Comms |
| 3/22 | Meeting with Delegate Kaiser – Graduation Requirements (Math) |
| 3/22 | 2.5 Meeting |
| 3/23 | Delegates Assembly |
| 3/23 | Charter Schools Review Team -- Launch |
| 3/24 | 2.5 Meeting |
| 3/25 | Deputy Superintendent Advisory Group |
| 3/26 | Testimony before County Council – Outdoor Venue Limits |
| 3/29 | Statement on Bodycam Footage of East Silver Spring Student |
| 3/30 | Meeting with Associate Superintendent of Operations |
| 3/31 | Meeting with National PTA on MDPTA dissolution |
| 4/6 | MCCPTA Curriculum Committee Meeting with OCIP |
| 4/6 | 2.5 Meeting |
| 4/7 | Charter School Review – Pick Up Materials |
| 4/7 | Delegates Assembly – Continuance Meeting |
| 4/8 | Community Meeting on Math – Associate Superintendent of Curriculum |
| 4/10 | Community Representatives – Discussion on MCPS Math Rollout |
| 4/12 | 2.5 Meeting |
| 4/15 | Meeting with Associate Superintendent of Curriculum |
| 4/15 | MCCPTA Virtual Learning Committee Meeting |
| 4/16 | Meeting with Operating Budget Chair |
| 4/20 | Meeting with SSL subcommittee Chair |
| 4/20 | Interview on MSDE graduation changes |
| 4/25 | 2.5 Meeting |
| 4/22 | Deputy Superintendent Advisory Group – 2.5 Review/Discussion |
| 4/22 | Discussion with Chief of Teaching, Learning and Schools – Resource Equity |
| 4/26 | 2.5 Meeting |
| 4/27 | Delegates Assembly |
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**Top 10 -- Activities/Concerns:**

1. **National PTA –** National PTA pulled the Charter of MDPTA on March 26, 2021. I’ve continued to message to National about concerns raised by our constituents. Worked with Communications Chair to craft FAQs to address concerns related to impact of MDPTA’s dissolution.

1. **School Resource Officers (SRO) –** Worked with MCCPTA’s Board, including the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion committee, to support discussions, material development, testimony, etc. to consider the role of the SROs in the school. Held the March Delegates meeting with this as a key component and the body passed a motion to continue the meeting on April 7th. The 2021 Resolution was amended, passed, and the 2010 Resolution rescinded.
2. **Food Security** – Continued to advocate for better options for virtual students. Continued to work with Nutrition Subcommittee and the various partners to identify opportunity to better support student needs. Provided comment on USDA announcement on “free lunch for all“ program extension to June 2022.
3. **Resource Equity** – Multiple conversations in this timeframe with Area Associate Superintendents regarding principal requests. In some instances, principals are requesting items in warehouse (copy paper, pencils, pens). In other instances, principals have requested items from the PTA that are prohibited by MCPS to purchase (plexiglass shields for the classroom). This spurs a larger conversation about guidelines from MCPS on what principals should be requesting of PTAs, how to treat our schools equitably, and how the PTA resources and the Principal’s Independent Activity Fund are linked.
4. **Crowd Limits for MCPS events** – Testified before County Council on concerns surrounding event limits (e.g., 4000 person stadium limited to 50 spectators). Also continued conversations with Associate Area Superintendent to move plans to outdoor venues. Continued conversations later in April to support County Council’s intention to lift outdoor gathering limits once county reaches 60% vaccine status. Also challenged graduation plans from one HS to limit graduates to only one guest.
5. **2.5 Recovery –** As part of Recovery, MCPS has established a Recovery Advisory team to support 4 areas. MCCPTA has representation in each committee. I serve as a community advisor in the Digital Learning Committee that is currently crafting the framework for the Virtual Academy.
6. **Curriculum/HS Graduation Requirements/Math Pathways**– Sigh… this has taken up a lot of bandwidth but all worthy, noble discussions. VP Education and Curriculum Chair will discuss in more detail but I wanted to flag here because these are near and dear discussions that are the reason I got involved with PTA in the first place.
7. **Establishing Rules/Process** – Worked with MCCPTA Office manager, bylaws chair, and communications chair to establish more clarity around processes and hopefully, empower advocacy by streamlining approaches.
8. **MCCPTA Statements** – Two issues were raised that compelled the Executive Committee to issue statements – Asian Hate and Bodycam footage of East Silver Spring Student.
9. **Ombudsman** – (repeated) MCCPTA Executive Committee continues to ask MCPS question regarding the current Ombudsman office. When families raise concerns with a school, if the initial response is not satisfactory for the family, the process becomes very circular with the inability to easily elevate and have an impartial review of a situation. MCCPTA has included the following in the 20-21 Advocacy Priorities, “Designate an impartial ombudsman to guide families in navigating the complexities of the system and ensure fair treatment.” MCPS reported to the excomm in January the position has not warranted a full-time staff member to serve as an Ombudsman, thus the reason our current MCPS Ombudsman splits her responsibilities between Chief of Staff and Ombudsman. We have sent forward documents from other public school Ombudsman offices to demonstrate the contrast.