

Vice President of Educational Issues Officer Monthly Report

March 2017

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February Activities

- February ExComm and Board of Directors meeting, February 2
- County Council CIP Hearing, February 7
- Curriculum Committee Meeting with Dr. Lang, et al, February 27
- Delegates Assembly, February 28

Upcoming Activities

- School Health Council, March 6, Rockville Library
- Joint MCPS/MCCPTA Science Night, March 20, 7-9pm, RMHS (Snow Date: March 22)
- Curriculum Committee with Dr. Lang's Office, March 27

Recent and Ongoing Issues

RQAs

As you know by now, cumulative final exams were replaced this year with Required Quarterly Assessments (RQAs), for the 30 (mostly high school) classes that had previously had written exams. Concerns over implementation of and communication between school officials, staff and parents will continue to be addressed as the inevitable kinks are worked out of this new system.

Compacted Math

Yes, this issue will continue to be a concern as we struggle to meet the needs of all students. The current grading system complicates the matter as a simple "P" on the report card covers every grade from a grade formerly known as a C+ to a grade formerly known as an A-. Parents do not know where in this broad range their student's true capability lies. If they are at the top level of the P then they are likely to do well in CM, if they are at the lower level of P the student may struggle. The best course of action is for parents to speak with the teachers to get a true feeling of their child's course readiness. Parents should not need to get tutors for their students that were not ready for the above grade level math presented in middle school. Furthermore, we need to ask if we are pushing the curriculum too far at too young an age. At the end of the day, Math 7 should remain an option for on grade level students and Algebra should be encouraged when the students are mature enough to grasp the abstract concepts. Pushing them to fly too high too soon can set them up for failure in high school.

Special Ed Advocacy

MCCPTA Special Ed. Chair Jeanne Taylor continues to advocate for support for House Bill 1240. This bill requires school districts to provide Burden of Proof in special needs due process hearings. Her letter to Delegate Anne Kaiser and members of the House Ways & Means Committee was recently sent out on the ListServ as a writing guide for interested parties to use to write their own letters of support. Again, if you know someone with a Special Ed child, maybe one too young to even be in school yet; please encourage them to contact Jeanne and write in as well. Encourage them to advocate *now* for the *future*.