

**June 1- Meetings/Calls/Events:**

- 6/1 MCCPTA Curriculum Committee/OCIP Monthly Meeting
- 6/2 Student Wellness Group – Meeting with Stakeholders
- 6/3 MCCPTA Virtual Learning Committee/Virtual Academy Meeting
- 6/9 MCCPTA Board of Directors' Meeting
- 6/10 DSAG/2.5 Year Plan -- Steering Committee Meeting
- 6/10 Clarksburg HS PTSA – Reinvigorate Meeting
- 6/10 MSDE – (representing National PTA) – federal funding priorities
- 6/14 Meeting with Interim Superintendent – Appeals Process/Ombudsman
- 6/25 DSAG/2.5 Year Plan Meeting
- 6/29 MCCPTA Leadership Training
- 6/30 East Silver Spring – Meeting with PTA Leaders
- 7/12 KLA-RA Complaints from the Public – Working Group
- 7/12 TMES – Meeting with leadership
- 7/14 DSAG/2.5 Year Plan Meeting
- 7/19 Open Data Discussion – WXY Consultants
- 7/20 KLA-RA – Complaints from the Public – Discussion Group
- 7/21 Excomm Meeting
- 7/22 MCCPTA Nutrition Subcommittee – Meeting with Maryland School Food and Identity
- 7/23 KLA-RA – Complaints from the Public – Working Group
- 7/26 MCCPTA – Discussion w/HR on “Special Assignments,” Former MCPS staff in “Temp Part Time”
- 7/29 Meeting with BOE and MCPS Chiefs of Staff re: Cluster Meetings with the BOE
- 8/12-14 Free State PTA/National – State Meeting
- 8/15 Excomm Meeting
- 8/17 Feedback Session on MCPS Contingency Plans
- 8/19 Meeting with Interim Sup and COS – Outdoor Lunch, Damascus Legal, Ombudsman Position
- 8/19 Meeting with MCPS Auditing Unit – Fundraising Clarifications/Use of 0025 Accounts
- 8/19 Excomm Meeting
- 8/19 MCCPTA Outdoor Spaces -- Discussion
- 8/20 DSAG/2.5 Year Plan -- Meeting
- 8/23 MCCPTA Outdoor Spaces -- Discussion
- 8/24 Public Testimony Before BOE – Outdoor Spaces, Damascus Legal, Ombudsman Position

**Top Activities/Concerns:**

- 1) **Reopening Safely** – MCCPTA Green Schools/Outdoor Spaces group (initially formed under the Virtual Learning Ad Hoc Committee but Excomm is proposing become a subcommittee under CIP), has been meeting with MCPS since late winter/early spring offering help and assistance in establishing outdoor spaces for teaching and learning. Simultaneously, MCCPTA the Health and Wellness Environmental Subcommittee has been supporting discussions on ventilation strategies, the science of airborne virus, and how to best mitigate and keep students safe. The two committee's work converged in the release of the MCCPTA Statement on Outdoor Lunch (attached).
- 2) **MCPS 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 crafted the framework for the Virtual Academy and will now be moving to discussions around the cohesion between Canvas and Synergy and address many of the technology issues experienced by the users.
- 3) **Ombudsman** – MCCPTA Executive Committee met with the Superintendent in April to continue conversations regarding the current Ombudsman office and in June, I met with the Interim Superintendent as part of the transition to ensure she was well-aware of the progress we made with the former Superintendent in advocating for a fair and impartial appeals process. Shortly thereafter, the Board President, Brenda Wolff introduced a

[resolution](#) fully supported by the Interim Superintendent, titled Continuous Improvement designed to relook at [KLA-RA](#) that guides “Complaints from the Public” to ensure there are safeguards in place to ensure an impartial review of public concerns. This gets to the heart of the concerns we’ve been raising about the lack of impartiality embedded in the appeals process – and of course, this regulation includes reference to the Ombudsman role.

A workgroup immediately was drafted (including 3 direct representatives from MCCPTA though the group includes individuals that are representing other organizations but actively engaged with the MCCPTA Leadership). Without coordination or consultation with the Work Group, the BOE staff office, on July 30, posted a new full-time Ombudsman position to report to the BOE Chief of Staff. Of concern – the position was posted months before the recommendations from the work group were scheduled to be delivered to the board. The job description includes references to communications and the Ombudsman position would be responsible for maintaining the BOE’s web and social media presence (a task that could conflict with a fair and impartial office).

I’ve spoken to Dr. McKnight and her Chief of Staff about my concerns. I’ve raised concern about the hiring process (who is selecting the Ombudsman), and provided testimony at the 8/24/21 BOE meeting during the public testimony portion of the agenda.

- 4) **MCPS Hiring Practices** – Building on conversations from last year, I’ve met with MCPS Human Resources to identify where we have timelines that could be adjusted to be more “community friendly” when it comes to principal selection processes. MCCPTA Executive Committee have identified hiring practices as one of the key initiatives we want to address this year (as we dealt with appeals/ombudsman last year) to see where we can begin to get traction on a practice our PTA leaders have complained about for years and years.

How can we minimize the disruption to the school community when sitting principals are “plucked” (sometimes during pre-service week) out of schools and into Central Office functions. How do “special assignments” work? When an investigation is still not complete, are those individuals allowed to take appointments? More on this in the coming year...

- 5) **Food Security** – We continue to press MCPS about food security issues and the latest inquiries are around availability of food boxes for students that are placed in quarantine/isolation.