**MCCPTA Committee Work Plan**

**2019-2020**

**Committee: School Climate and Safety**

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**Vision**

MCCPTA’s Committee on School Climate and Safety seeks to ensure that all members of the MCPS community – students, families, and staff – feel safe, supported, and a sense of belonging in their school communities.

Research indicates that 90 percent of child wellbeing and protection concerns are most efficiently and effectively addressed at the community level. That means that you, me and we are on the frontlines of children's lives. That's a pretty important role to play and it works best when we support each other in it.

**Goals and action steps**

1. Facilitate communication between PTAs and MCPS related to school safety and security.

* Create regular opportunities for interaction/communication between MCCPTA, PTAs and the MCPS Chief of Safety on implementation of the plan and other security/safety concerns.
* Track implementation of the [MCPS Safety and Security Strategic Plan](https://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/uploadedFiles/departments/security/Security-Report/0900.18_SchoolSafetySecurity_KEYPRIORITIES_web.pdf).
* Convene 1-2 open meetings on school safety and security in 2019-2020 with relevant stakeholders and community partners.
* Liaise with relevant stakeholders (with a focus on student leaders) within and outside the system to proactively prevent gun violence and share resources for parents and caregivers.

1. Prevent and productively address all forms of bias, discrimination, hate, sexual harassment, and violence in our schools.

* Create regular opportunities for interaction/communication between MCCPTA, PTAs and MCPS OSFSE and the Equity Initiatives Unit.
* Track implementation of [Be Well 365](https://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/departments/studentservices/wellbeing/index-new.aspx).
* Support MCPS in applying for the Maryland Center for School Safety grant to prevent and respond to hate and bias incidents in public school communities.
* Promote [Choose Respect](https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/fjc/chooserespect/), [Communities United Against Hate](https://cuahmcmd.org/)/[Youth Creating Change](https://cuahmcmd.org/about-ycc), [PeaceJam](http://www.peacejam.org/), [Coaching Boys to Men](http://www.coachescorner.org/), [Athletes as Leaders](https://www.athletesasleaders.org/the-program), and other local initiatives that address this goal.

1. Ensure the rights of and protections and support for our undocumented students and families.

* Identify the right point of contact for this issue within MCPS.
* Advocate for a county-wide task force on supporting undocumented students and families and those at-risk of adverse immigration enforcement.
* Work with community partners (including [Identity](https://identity-youth.org/), [CASA](https://www.casamontgomery.org/aboutnoflash.html) and the Latino Student Achievement Action Group) to skills build PTAs to become better allies for vulnerable students and families.

1. Support school communities in the midst of crisis.

* Ensure PTAs have support in navigating crisis and its aftermath, including facilitating courageous conversations for recovery and resilience.

1. Build awareness about preventing, reporting, and responding to child abuse and neglect.

* Represent MCCPTA in the Child Abuse and Neglect/Child Protection Stakeholders Group.
* Share information and resources with PTAs on a quarterly basis.

1. Promote restorative justice and community-building practices.

* Create regular opportunities for interaction/communication between MCCPTA, PTAs and the [MCPS Restorative Justice Office](https://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/departments/studentservices/mentalhealth/restorative-justice-project.aspx).

**Meeting Schedule**

* Monthly meetings with Ruschelle Reuben, Associate Superintendent, [MCPS Office of Student and Family Support and Engagement](https://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/departments/studentservices/mentalhealth/restorative-justice-project.aspx)
* Monthly meetings with Ed Clarke, MCPS Chief of Safety
* Monthly conference call with community members (open to all)
* Ad hoc meetings relevant to goals listed above

**Expenses**

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| **What?** | **Why?** | **How much?** |
| Becoming Better Allies Workshop | Understanding the situation and rights of undocumented students and families and learning how to show up in solidarity. | $300 |
| Coaching Boys into Men | Building a culture of dignity and respect in youth sports. | $300 |
| Open Community Conversation with MCPS and the Johns Hopkins Center for Safe and Healthy Schools | Building awareness of current trends and resources. Is there a gap between what we know and what we do? What could we be doing that we’re not doing now? | $300 |
| Support to student partners: MoCo for Change and YCC | Showing support for student leadership. | $600 |
| **Total** |  | **$1500** |