**MCCPTA Committee on School Climate and Safety**

**September 2019 Report**

Gillian Huebner, Chair

* **August 22 – Meeting at International Admissions**: To get a sense of how MCPS is handling the arrival of new students from various counties, but particularly Central America.
* **August 26** **– Meeting with MCPS Chief of Safety, Ed Clarke**: To discuss priorities and communication mechanism for the upcoming year.
* **September 11** **– Meeting with new OSFSE director, Ruschelle Reuben**: To discuss collaboration with MCCPTA committees moving forward. We focused on two additional issues:
  + New leadership of the Restorative Justice Office (introduced to Stephanie Iszard)
  + Request to stand up a taskforce on undocumented students and families to ensure that the school system and partners are doing as much as possible to ensure the rights of and protections for this vulnerable population. Reuben said she would work on this and report back by the end of September.
* **September 14 – MCCPTA Fall training**: Facilitated sessions on School Climate and Safety and Communicating in Crisis. See attached handouts.
* **September 15 – Moms Demand Action for Gun Sense in America meeting on School Safety**: Speakers included Montgomery County Sheriff Darren Popkin; Rob Wilcox, Deputy Director of Policy and Strategy at Everytown for Gun Safety; Moms Demand Action-MD’s Be SMART Lead; and leaders from student-led gun violence prevention groups. MCPS Office of Security was represented. We coordinated contact between Moms Demand Action and MCPS Chief of Security prior to the meeting. We expect ongoing collaboration related to preventing gun violence and ensuring effective communication related to security drills.
* **October 5 – (11:30) Combined meeting with MCCPTA Committees on Health/Wellness, Diversity/Inclusion, School Climate/Safety with OSFSE**
* **October 5 – (12:30) Meeting with Restorative Justice Office**
* **October 5 – (3:00) Meeting with Derek Turner and MCCPTA reps on school enrollment, boundary study, Damascus external review**
* **October 6 – Youth Creating Change Interest Meeting**: [Youth Creating Change (YCC)](https://urldefense.proofpoint.com/v2/url?u=https-3A__cuahmcmd.org_about-2Dycc&d=DwMFaQ&c=fgAH0TEak9hSJygxoVsafg&r=jPEq_xeMtqHi43r5M08N6KG44DQedK0cP1jUK9ZlbHs&m=hHfMqXcO-DnlZBvfuvjUG2valsbXJZBdKtn9pWlGKkY&s=Cw8PpA_edMweJ0uutb_4sj9YZdezScJwXy5VNcfFmlM&e=) is a program of [Communities United Against Hate (CUAH)](https://urldefense.proofpoint.com/v2/url?u=https-3A__cuahmcmd.org_about&d=DwMFaQ&c=fgAH0TEak9hSJygxoVsafg&r=jPEq_xeMtqHi43r5M08N6KG44DQedK0cP1jUK9ZlbHs&m=hHfMqXcO-DnlZBvfuvjUG2valsbXJZBdKtn9pWlGKkY&s=PdyYGcZ5_tCgzkDuY_VhUYwRfJbFsa4gLEp_H909NMw&e=). CUAH is a local, nonpartisan organization that unites our diverse community to combat bigotry, support victims of hate, and promote inclusiveness in Montgomery County, Maryland. YCC's goal is to support students addressing social justice issues through grant funding, mentorship, and training opportunities. BOE members and MCPS staff have been engaged in much of YCC's work to date. Shebra Evans and Evan Glass will be headlining YCC's October 6th event at Richard Montgomery High School. CUAH/YCC has also recently received a proclamation of support from the City of Rockville. MCCPTA is a founding partner of CUAH and a solid supporter of YCC.
* To note: [Learning environment surveys for 2018-2019](http://sharedaccountability.mcpsmd.org/SurveyResults/content.php) have been released. These include Staff Climate Surveys and Parent Engagement Surveys. Data collected from the surveys and other tools are used to provide the school and the Office of School Support and Improvement (OSSI) information about student, staff, and community engagement that can be helpful in the school improvement planning process. Principals are expected to share the survey results with their administrative and instructional leadership teams and other stakeholders and ensure shared decision-making in implementing a response to the data.
* Committee members: 20 people have expressed interest in the work of the Committee, though no one has agreed to take on a particular piece of the work plan. Meanwhile, we’ll continue to share information with the MCCPTA community and plan events open to all.