

May - Mid June Meetings:

- 5/7 Curriculum Committee Meeting with OCIP
- 5/8 District Assessment Committee Meeting
- 5/8 MCPS/MCCPTA Science Night
- 5/9 Damascus Cluster Meeting with BOE
- 5/14 BOE Meeting – HS Programming
- 5/15 Executive Committee Meeting with Superintendent
- 5/16 Call with Maria Navarro – HS Programming
- 5/30 Testimony before BOE – HS Programming, District Assessment
- 6/4 Meeting with Dr. Wilson – EOL, EAM, ERS
- 6/5 Meeting with Dep Superintendent, Area Assoc Sups, and AVPs
- 6/6 Clarksburg HS PTSA Elections
- 6/11 BOE Meeting – Operating Budget, Digital Platform Purchase

Activity Summary:

- **AVP meetings with OSSI** – During this 4th meeting of the year with the OSSI DAS and Associate Superintendents, we focused on to discuss several topics. Items addressed:
 - Request from OSSI to provide more specifics around cluster meetings with directors – who did/did not take advantage of this opportunity so DAS can follow up and further this work throughout the county.
 - MCPS is working with schools now to address HS course offerings and ensure students have appropriate choice.
 - Dr. Williams’ departure does create a vacancy. At the meeting, Dr. Statham did not have a clear timeline for replacement. OSSI intends to keep all cluster assignments as is, assuming all directors are returning next year.
 - TO BE ADDRESSED: issues of bias and discrimination. This topic was too big to handle in our limited meeting but we hope to start with this topic next year.
- **Intersection of Evidence of Learning (EOL), Equity Accountability Model (EAM) and Education Resource Strategies (ERS)** – In early June, I met with Dr. Wilson, Associate Superintendent for Office of Shared Accountability, to discuss how these pieces all fit together and to look more closely at some of our schools. Dr. Wilson is willing to come meet with the BOD and/or participate in summer meetings – this data view allows us to see school performance and challenge “what are we going to do about it.”
- **District Assessment Committee** – The work of this group concluded on May 30th after delivery of our recommendations to the Board of Education. We have looked at all the state and district assessments (by high, middle, and elementary) and presented our recommendations for how MCPS will comply with “Less Testing, More Learning” requirement to limit testing to 2.2%. During the BOE meeting, one BOE member challenged MCPS to revisit final exams for high schoolers.
[https://go.boarddocs.com/mabe/mcpsmd/Board.nsf/files/BCDLPF55B778/\\$file/More%20Learning%20Less%20Testing%20Assess%20Wrk%20Grp%20190530.pdf](https://go.boarddocs.com/mabe/mcpsmd/Board.nsf/files/BCDLPF55B778/$file/More%20Learning%20Less%20Testing%20Assess%20Wrk%20Grp%20190530.pdf)

- **Future High School Programming** – Over the last month, I've participated in numerous meetings with other MCCPTA Board members, weighing in on elists, providing testimony at BOE meetings, addressing issues with MCPS senior leadership – I'm concerned! MCPS has generated a "concept paper" that sounds really good but does not have any of the specifics determined but this is being presented as "the plan." This is how the middle school rollout was handled and where MCPS justified the lack of information because "we're building the plane while flying it." I hope this is a key topic of EVERY summer meeting but we need to demand MCPS have clear, transparent plans for these expansions before the plane leaves the ground.
- **MISA** – On June 7th, the MD state register posted an opportunity for public comment on MSDE's proposal to extend the current period for students to "take" (rather than requirement to "pass") the MISA for two years. Doing this means the students entering HS this fall will be the first class required to "pass" the assessment. This delay provides time for the "cut scores" to be distributed to the local schools, make adjustments to instruction (where needed) prior to the high stakes testing that passing is necessary for graduation. For more detail on how to submit comments, see Page 37 (electronic numbering) on the process to follow. <http://www.dsd.state.md.us/MDR/4612.pdf> Comments may sent by mail or email but must be received by July 8th. I will send information through the elists.
- **Principalships** – Concerns have been expressed in the last year or so on the elists and in DA/BOD meetings the process followed when a principal position is opened. When a principal is retiring and gives months of notice or a new school is coming on line, selecting the principal is generally on a very clear timeline over a longer period of time. But, more often it seems a principal announces their departure (often to assume a position at another school or at Central Office) and this triggers a flurry of activity compressed into a very short period of time. The position is posted (often with only a week or less before it closes) and within a few days of the community learning their principal is leaving, a community meeting is held with the OSSI director to solicit feedback on what the community is looking for in their next leader. Interviews are conducted with a panel a week or so later (consisting of school staff, parents/community, and Central Office staff). The questions are determined by the OSSI director/Human Resources and the recommendations are made to the board within a few weeks. The entire process is hastened in hopes of getting principals confirmed before the last BOE meeting of the year so leaders are in place as close to July 1 as possible, corresponding to the beginning of our fiscal year.

There are a few key concerns – 1) Is less than a week really time to ensure we have the best candidates under consideration? 2) While most principals work really hard through the transition/probation period, the fact remains, once a principal is confirmed the position is his/hers until the principal decides he/she wants to leave (barring some egregious act). As a result, these can be "lifetime appointments" which can be great if the principal has grown with the community but can be torturous when a principal is no longer effective and the community feels they are held hostage to a principal's retirement plans – required to keep him/her in place until the principal decides to begin collecting a pension.

Next year, MCPS will be renegotiating the union contracts. I think we should ask them to consider reposting principal positions on a periodic basis. When principals are working well for the community, staff morale is high, the students are achieving well, then the principal should have no problems remaining in the position.