

VP Advocacy Officer Report, Laura Stewart

March 2021

This past month I have attended the following meetings:

### **Virtual Learning Committee**

Attended meeting with Seth Adams to advocate for more outdoor lunch guidance to principals and outdoor learning opportunities. Reached out to MCEA on outdoor policy.

### **Health and Wellness Committee**

Communicated with Council Members to advocate for open data concerning air quality in schools during Covid-19 emergency.

Attended meeting with Councilmembers and staff in order to ask for more access to school meals for virtual students.

### **SSP Subcommittee**

Subcommittee is working on a letter to ask County Council to take up the Recordation Tax item that was delayed until Spring. There is a shortfall in funds because of Impact Tax cuts that were not replaced. This contributed to a Non-Recommended budget that included a 1 year delay for Northwood HS and Woodward HS project. There was also a cut to HVAC and Roof replacements.

### **CIP Committee**

See above. Non-Recommended budget will go to County Council for discussion. MCPS also presented the problems with matching funds from the state and why Montgomery County is penalized. The Reopen and Rebuild America's Schools Act from congress, along with the bigger Build Back Better infrastructure bill could add to MoCo revenues which would improve our forecast.

### **Advocacy Committee**

Sent written testimony for the Menstrual Hygiene bill, Pregnant and Parenting Student Support, FASFA Requirements.

Kirwan bill was passed!

Advocated with National PTA on School Infrastructure bills. Follow up with David Trone's office is needed. He asked about HVAC and Water Filter needs in District 6 so he could possibly get dedicated funds for these projects. Will follow up with schools in his district.

Open Data contract was approved by BOE, will follow up to give MCCPTA input.

### **Black and Brown Coalition**

Discussed advocacy for more personalized tutoring to stem learning loss. Also discussed advocacy for more support for Principals so that they are performing at a higher level.

