Curriculum Committee Report Submitted by: Michelle Gluck

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**Meetings/Calls/Events**

10/13 BOD Meeting

10/26 Delegates Assembly

11/3 Superintendent Search consultant meeting

**Upcoming**

11/10 AEI Feedback Council

11/10 BOD Meeting

11/12 Curriculum Committee meeting

11/14 OCIP/Curriculum meeting (tent)

This month, I am going to live up to the mantra I often recite to my daughter about reports with due dates: “It doesn’t have to be perfect, it just has to be done.”

**Key Developments**

1. **The Good News!**

A few positive developments in the Curriculum world:

1. Curriculum Committee begins internal meetings

Last year, one of my unmet goals was to expand the size and regional representation of the Curriculum Committee. I am pleased to report that we will be launching monthly meetings. The first one will be an organizational meeting of committee leadership; future meetings will have topics and be open to interested participants.

1. Resumption of meetings with MCPS Administrators

As many of us reported last month, MCPS unilaterally decided to stop allowing regular meetings between associate superintendent-level administrators and their corresponding MCCPTA committee chairs, in the name of “efficiency”. That decision appears to have been modified, at least, as we have been tentatively invited to quarterly OCIP meetings, the first of which will be held next week. This is still a downgrade – we previously had monthly meetings at which we were invited to set the agenda. I have also been invited to attend a revival of the AEI Feedback Council, although I’m not optimistic that the planned 60 minute agenda will allow for a very robust discussion.

Stay tuned.

1. **The Bad News**

A few lowlights:

1. Continued lack of interest in individual assessments and lack of transparency in placement decisions

I reported last month on the appalling lack of MCPS interest in individually assessing, or planning, for individual student learning loss that was evident at the beginning of the school year. Now that we are past the first marking period and “settled in” to the sort-of-post-pandemic school routine, it’s becoming clear that MCPS is committed to three years of pretending that everyone needs the same thing. We will be exploring this with OCIP at our next meeting.

1. The Plans Going Forward Are Giving Me Déjà vu and Not In A Good Way

At today’s BOE meeting, the Board considered the draft FY 2022-25 Strategic Plan (which you can read for yourself here: <https://go.boarddocs.com/mabe/mcpsmd/Board.nsf/files/C8FTPP7266C7/$file/BOE%20Strategic%20Plan%20211109.pdf>)

I was not able to listen to the meeting due to a conflict with another meeting, but I did review the document, and I am dismayed by the combination of same-old word salad “interventions” (sample: “Review and monitor a variety of data to determine whether students are making adequate progress in literacy and mathematics and make districtwide recommendations to support schools”) with wildly aspirational “goals” (sample: increase the percentage of students meeting Evidence of Learning benchmarks in mathematics from 55.4% to 90% **in four years**.)

MCPS has been setting and re-setting the exact same goals for the entire 16 years I have been in the system, and then revising the metrics to create the appearance of progress on those goals – which, however, are never “met” so we can’t turn our attention to anything other than those goals. The pandemic really exposed the house of cards to some degree, which I guess could be a good thing if it caused the leaders to take a good hard look at all the years they’ve been “reviewing and monitoring a variety of data” and not coming up with very good ideas in response to those data. So far, however, the indications are not giving me much hope that they will.