

MCCPTA Committee Update – May 2007

Curriculum Committee: Ted Willard and Sharon Schulman, Co-Chairs

Through the school year, MCCPTA Curriculum Committee members represented MCCPTA at four MCPS Curriculum Advisory Assemblies and four MCPS Curriculum Advisory Committee (CAC) meetings, run by the MCPS Office of Curriculum and Instructional Programs. The Assembly meetings discuss and provide feedback to MCPS on various topics relating to the schools overall. Topics discussed this year included: middle school magnets, math pathways, assessment design, writing instruction, kindergarten curriculum revisions, and International Baccalaureate programs. The CAC meetings have separate sessions for Mathematics, Science, Social Studies, Reading/Language Arts, English Language Arts, ESOL, Foreign Language, Music, Art, Health, Physical Education, and Special Education. Each CAC subgroup reviews and provides feedback to MCPS on new and existing curriculum within that area. In addition, the MCCPTA committee met six times this year. Programs at those meetings included middle school reform and staff training. The Curriculum Committee has met with MCPS staff to advocate for MCCPTA priorities as stated in MCCPTA resolutions; including science and social studies in elementary schools, wider use of magnet program methodologies, and the gifted and talented curriculum in middle schools. We feel that we have made progress in these areas, although more needs to be done. The Curriculum Committee initiated a new resolution this year, which the DA passed, asking that a one-semester course in personal financial management be made available to all high school students. We are advocating for that resolution now with MCPS. The Curriculum Committee is planning for next year. We hope to improve our communication with the DA and clusters and to increase our representation on the various MCPS committees. We need more members to increase representation. Please consider joining this committee next year. If you know anyone who might be interested, please encourage them to join this committee. If you have curriculum issues that you feel should be addressed, please bring them to this committee. Please contact Sharon or Ted for all committee-related matters.