

# MCCPTA

## October, 2010 Committee Reports

### Capital Improvement Program Committee

Steve Augustino: [sauggiedog@comcast.net](mailto:sauggiedog@comcast.net)

The Fall is a busy time for the CIP.

**CIP Budget.** In September, Kristin and I participated in MCPS planning meetings the Superintendent uses to develop his recommended CIP. The Superintendent's recommendation will be released on October 28.

**FACT Assessments.** In August and September, Kristin Triple and I attended weekly meetings with MCPS and EMG Group to refine the proposed FACT Assessment criteria and to develop scoring metrics for each factor. The draft document will be released for public comment on or around October 15. Clusters and individual schools may comment on proposed scoring criteria in November. The BOE is targeting action on the FACT Assessments at its December 2010 meeting. MCCPTA will submit comments, and the CIP Committee will provide materials to assist cluster and individual school comments.

**2010 CIP Committee Initiatives.** The CIP Committee's workplan identifies three initiatives for the 2010-11 school year: (1) review of countywide CIP projects; (2) drafting of a Parents' Guide to the Construction Process; and (3) study of costs related to the maintenance and renewal of athletic fields. The Committee is recruiting volunteers to assist with each of these initiatives.

Upcoming CIP-related dates are highlighted below.

- Oct. 15 – Superintendent's Recommendations re Monocacy ES Roundtable and Bethesda-Chevy Chase Enrollment Roundtable.
- Oct. 28 – Superintendent's Recommended CIP Released
- Oct. 29 – Comments on BOE Renewal and Modernization Policy (Policy FKB)
- Nov. 3 – CIP Forum
- Nov. 4 – BOE CIP Worksession
- Nov. 6 – MCCPTA CIP Comment Workshop (**Please RSVP!**)
- Nov. 10 and 11 – BOE CIP Hearings (Cluster Comments)
- Nov. 18 – BOE Vote on CIP
- Nov. – Comments on FACT Assessment Criteria (with scoring criteria)

### Cultural Arts Committee

Priscilla Peterson: [PrisFP@verizon.net](mailto:PrisFP@verizon.net)

The 2010 Montgomery County Cultural Arts Showcases will take place on October 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup>, in the Carver Educational Center Auditorium from 9 a.m. – 2:45 p.m. Every school is urged to send someone from their PTA and/or staff to view the amazing talent and variety of performances available for our schools.

This year, MCCPTA-EPI is introducing a new service for local PTA's. Performances of the Showcases will be videotaped and made available on a password-protected site for local PTA Cultural Arts Chairs and MCPS principals to view. This will provide an opportunity for those who are unable to attend any or all of the Showcases to see and hear the performances. Occasionally people in the audience are asked to participate in a performance. This year, parents of children who participate will be asked to sign a release form to appear in the videotapes.

All performers in the Showcases have already auditioned and been approved by the Superintendent's Committee for Performances in MCPS. In September there were eleven new performances approved, most of which will be shown on the 4<sup>th</sup> and last day of the Showcases, October 15<sup>th</sup>. The first three days of the Showcases will feature performers who have auditioned in previous years and have already been performing in MCPS.

The 2010-11 Performing Arts Catalogue, listing all of the approved performances and giving a description of each, contact information and cost, will be available at the Showcases (one copy per school.) It is also available online, on the MCPS Fine Arts website, and I have sent the link for it out to the PTArts eList.

All schools are encouraged to have their Cultural Arts reps join the PTArts eList by sending their NAME, SCHOOL, and POSITION to: [PTArts-subscribe@yahoo.com](mailto:PTArts-subscribe@yahoo.com)

The eList is an excellent way to learn more about the shows that are available and for members to communicate with each other about which shows they recommend.

A Cultural Arts Workshop was held during the MCCPTA Fall Training at Blake High School on September 25<sup>th</sup>. I gave an overview of how to go about hiring performers for schools, and passed out materials about how to get a cultural arts program started, as well as schedules for the upcoming four days of Showcases. Seda Gelenian, the Producer and Coordinator of the Cultural Arts Showcases, was on hand to discuss with the participants how performers are auditioned and approved, and what to expect at the Showcases this year regarding the videotaping.

On Tuesday, September 28<sup>th</sup>, I also took part in the Committee presentation on the agenda at the Delegate Assembly.

## **Curriculum Committee**

Ted Willard: [twillard@aaas.org](mailto:twillard@aaas.org)

Kathy Boehlert: [skboehlert@msn.com](mailto:skboehlert@msn.com)

### **K-5 Curriculum Frameworks and Elementary Integrated Curriculum**

The Board of Education granted preliminary approval to a new K-5 curriculum framework.

The K-5 Framework includes new Mathematics and Reading/Language Arts standards developed by the Common Core State Standards Initiative. This initiative is a state-led effort coordinated by the National Governors Association Center for Best Practices (NGA Center) and the Council of Chief State School Officers (CCSSO). The effort was first widely announced in the summer of 2009, a draft version of standards for English/Language Arts and Mathematics was released in March 2010, and the final version was released in June. Maryland is one of 35 states that adopted the standards this summer (The District of Columbia did as well but Virginia did not.) More information can be found at [corestandards.org](http://corestandards.org). Chris Minnoch from CCSSO spoke about Common Standards at the September Delegates Assembly.

His PowerPoint presentation is available on the MCCPTA website at the following link:

[http://mccpta.net/MCCPTA\\_news/2010-2011/Common\\_Core\\_States.ppt](http://mccpta.net/MCCPTA_news/2010-2011/Common_Core_States.ppt)

The K-5 Framework also includes the existing standards in other subject areas such as Social Studies, Science, and the Arts.

New in the Framework are Thinking and Academic Success Skills Framework created by MCPS.

The K-5 Framework can be found on the MCPS website at the following link:

<http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/curriculum/office/>

Parents are encouraged to review the framework and send in their comments. The Board of Education plans on final approval of the K-5 Framework later this fall.

MCCPTA's Curriculum Committee is holding a number of Curriculum Forums to provide further information about the Common Standards and the Elementary Integrated Curriculum. See below for more information.

### **Math Workgroup Report**

The Math Workgroup was scheduled to present their report to the Board of Education at the October 12<sup>th</sup> Board of Education Meeting, but there have been additional delays in completing the report. It is now scheduled to be released on Tuesday, November 9<sup>th</sup>. The Program for the November Delegates Assembly is scheduled to focus on the Math Workgroup Report.

### **MCCPTA Curriculum Forums**

**Common Core State Standards for English Language Arts**

Monday October 11 at 7:30 pm in the Auditorium at Carver Educational Services Center

**Common Core State Standards for Mathematics**

Monday October 18 at 7:30 pm in the Cafeteria at Magruder High School

**Elementary Integrated Curriculum**

Monday November 8 at 7:30 pm in the Auditorium at Carver Educational Services Center

**MCCPTA Curriculum Committee Meetings**

Thursday, October 21 and December 9 in the Board Room at the Carver Educational Services Center. These meetings will be a chance for parents to discuss curriculum issues and help plan what advocacy MCCPTA should take.

**MCPS Advisory Committees**

If you are interested in serving one of the following groups or would like more information, please contact MCCPTA Curriculum Committee Chairs Ted Willard and Kathy Boehlert.

**MCPS Curriculum Advisory Committee (MCPS CAC)**

Meets from 7:00 pm to 9pm on December 6, March 7, and May 2

The MCPS CAC is led by Betsy Brown, Director of Department of Curriculum and Instruction and meetings tend to cover issues in specific content areas.

**MCPS Curriculum Advisory Assembly (MCPS CAA)**

Meets from 8:30 am to 11 am on October 20, February 9 and April 13

The MCPS CAA is led by Erick Lang, Associate Superintendent for Curriculum and Instructional Programs and meetings tend to cover broad curriculum topics.

**MCPS Standards-Based Grading and Reporting Parent Feedback Group**

Meets on October 20, February 23, and June 1 from 7:00 to 8:30

This group is for parent representatives from the 23 schools currently piloting the new Standards Based Report cards.

**eList Committee**

Jodi Bierlair: [j.bierlair@gmail.com](mailto:j.bierlair@gmail.com)

As of October 4, 2010, membership on the various lists is as follows:

Listserv	# subscribed	Net increase/decrease from last report
MCCPTA_Board	78	+3
MCCPTA_Bulletin	654	+20
MCCPTA_Delegates	475	-12
MCCPTA_HS_Presidents	30	(unknown)
MCCPTA_Presidents	243	-2
MCCPTA_Presidents_Discussion	74	+37
MCCPTA_Treasurers	200	-9

More reminders for eLists transitions have been sent, and subscribers are continuing to contact the moderator regarding the current year. There has also been an ongoing "purge" of non-functioning email addresses.

At the end of June (or otherwise if special circumstances exist), outgoing presidents and treasurers will be removed from their respective eLists, and posting permission for outgoing delegates will be removed for the MCCPTA\_Delegates eList.

Ongoing additions and modifications have been made for newly sworn in Cluster Coordinators and AVPs. Committee Chairs have been updated as necessary.

The auto-reminder calendars for the Bulletin and BOD eLists has been updated as meetings and events are scheduled or changed. Calendar updates have been forwarded to the Webmaster for the MCCPTA website calendar.

Subscription and moderation issues and assistance for the various eLists have been addressed. Assistance has been given to MCCPTA committee and locals eList moderators as requested.

## **Gifted and Talented Committee**

Michelle Gluck: [gluck.michelle@yahoo.com](mailto:gluck.michelle@yahoo.com)

The GT Liaisons Fall Training Meeting has been scheduled for October 25, 2010 at Magruder High School. A representative from AEI will attend and give a presentation to the liaisons. Michelle Gluck will be meeting with Monique Felder during the week of October 4 to coordinate this meeting and also to explore other issues for discussion. The AEI Advisory Committee has announced its first meeting of the 2010-2011 school year and Michelle will represent the GCS. At this meeting, AEI officials will present an update on SIPPI and plans for the coming year.

## **Guidance and Counseling Committee**

Jeannie Dillingham: [jeannie\\_616@msn.com](mailto:jeannie_616@msn.com)

The Guidance and Counseling Committee will have their first meeting on Thursday, October 28<sup>th</sup> beginning at 7:30 p.m. at Carver Educational Services Center. The goal of the first meeting is to determine strategic priorities for the committee to address in school year 2010/2011. Contact has been made with Dr. Newton, Supervisor of School Counseling Services. Dr. Newton has been invited to the Guidance and Counseling Committee meeting, but confirmation has not been received.

Anybody interested in being on the committee can contact [jeannie\\_616@msn.com](mailto:jeannie_616@msn.com) for more information.

## **High School Committee**

Dave Lechner: [dave@lechnersonline.com](mailto:dave@lechnersonline.com)

Started organizing - Sent out list for volunteers, 2 responses so far. Received inquiry from Entertainment Committee about running a "Safe Prom Night" contest - they are willing to donate services as prizes to 3 schools. Discussed potential joint meeting with the Curriculum Committee with Ted Willard. Note: Expecting to have an organizing meeting and seek inputs from HS PTA Presidents prior to having a work plan to provide the BOD.

## **Legislative Committee**

Patrick Dunn: [patrickdunn65@yahoo.com](mailto:patrickdunn65@yahoo.com)

Two people at the Sept MCCPTA DA expressed interest in joining the legislative committee (LC). They were contacted by P. Dunn in a follow up communication to indicate the scope and goal of the committee.

LC is evaluating various school's legislative update web pages to inform upgrade in content and format to MCCPTA LC web page.

The LC assisted K. Trimble's interactions with the League of Women Voters to co-host a Board of Education candidate forum. LC provided questions from MCCPTA to ask the candidates at the forum.

## **Membership Committee**

Janette Gilman: [janettegilman@verizon.net](mailto:janettegilman@verizon.net)

The MCCPTA Membership Committee is working with our local PTA/PTSA leaders to grow membership to increase our collective voice for the children of Montgomery County and thereby the resources available to our local public

schools. We are anxiously awaiting the initial membership number from our locals; anecdotal evidence suggests that our goal of 75,000 members in 2010-11 remains a distinct possibility thanks to the drive of our local PTA presidents and local membership leaders.

This past month, membership in PTA was highlighted in MCCPTA President Kristin Triple's "Take 10" on MCPS TV, urged by MCCPTA officers at the MCPS Back-to-School Fair on Saturday August 28<sup>th</sup>, and "taught" at MCCPTA's Fall Training where PTA leaders focused on growing membership "after Back-to-School Night". Membership tips are also being featured in the monthly MCCPTA newsletter.

Starting in October, the three new categories of MCCPTA membership awards to be presented at the Principals-Presidents Dinner in May 2011 will be publicized for our locals. Proposed awards will be given for a) percentage growth in local PTAs by 5% increments (5%, 10%, etc.); b) absolute numbers—the largest—PTA/PTSA by category of school (elementary, middle, high, or special school); and c) greatest parent involvement calculated by the ratio of the total number of students to total membership. The intention is to reward ALL PTA/PTSAs who either grow or retain significant membership in front of their friends, peers, and Montgomery County and MCPS officials.

## Parent Involvement Committee

Elisia George: [ekjgsha@gmail.com](mailto:ekjgsha@gmail.com)

Parent Involvement Committee participated in the MCCPTA Fall Training. A presentation on Parent Outreach and creating a welcoming environment in the school. As the committee chairperson I was also able to provide two parents with valuable resources that would empower them in advocating for their children. My hope is that this experience will motivate them into becoming more active in their school.

## Safety & Health Committee

Donna Pfeiffer: [donnapfeiffer@gmail.com](mailto:donnapfeiffer@gmail.com) 301-370-3200  
Susan Burkinshaw: [susan.burkinshaw@verizon.net](mailto:susan.burkinshaw@verizon.net) 301-758-6995

Chairs Donna Pfeiffer and Susan Burkinshaw are in the gathering information stages, learning about the transition from the EFO (Educational Facilities Officer) program to the nationally recognized SRO (School Resource Officers) program. The primary concern focuses on our 25 high schools sharing only 9 SROs and middle schools do not have an SRO liaison. With so few officers in our schools, they have significantly less time to build relationships with students and their support to the school security team has diminished.

Recently, Donna and Susan met with County Council member –Chair of the Public Safety Committee- Phil Andrews. Discussion focused on when the county will be able to further develop the SRO program. Mr. Andrews stated that next year's budget will be just as challenging (if not worse) than this year. It was suggested that a high school student mentoring program be created to support selected elementary school students. This could be developed through National Honors Program, SGA, Leos Club, etc.

We're also gathering information about how schools are implementing the new anti-bullying policy. Our goal for next month will be to set up a Safety & Health Committee e-list, encouraging at least one person per school to sign up and we'll establish a date in early November to meet.

## Special Education Committee

Jeanne Taylor: [frtjmt@aol.com](mailto:frtjmt@aol.com)

On Monday, October 4, 2010 beginning at 7:30 p.m. we will hold our annual kick off meeting. Gwen Mason and Judy Pattik, MCPS Special Education Directors, are scheduled to attend. About half a dozen people from other advocacy groups are also scheduled to attend and briefly discuss their organizations.

Our next meeting is scheduled for Monday, December 6, 2010 where members will discuss their special needs "expertise" and/or areas of interest to fellow chairs.

Some new Special Education chairs from different schools have contacted me regarding the eList. They have been duly added to the Yahoo group and the master contact list.

I e-mailed Pat Gamage about reserving Rockville HS auditorium for our annual Recognition ceremony to be held on May 9, 2011.

## Student Learning Services (SSL) Committee

Deb Lang: [debolang@yahoo.com](mailto:debolang@yahoo.com)

The Student Learning Service Committee has been hard at work to increase its reach into every middle and high school. To date, we circulate information regarding the SSL program requirements and opportunities to parent liaisons at almost 60 percent of these schools. We also partnered with MCPS to offer a training session at the MCCPTA Fall Training on Sept 25th - which was modestly attended but well received!!

We are still looking for liaisons at the following Middle and High Schools:

**Middle Schools** - Argyle, Cabin John, Cemente, Eastern, Farquhar, Frost, Key, King, Kingsview, Montgomery Village, North Bethesda, Parkland, Poole, Redland, Shady Grove, and Takoma Park.

**High Schools** - Montgomery Blair, Churchill, Edison, Walter Johnson, Kennedy, Seneca Valley, Springbrook, Watkins Mill, Wheaton and Wootton.

If you, or someone you know, are willing to receive emails and distribute them to your parent community, please contact [debolang@yahoo.com](mailto:debolang@yahoo.com). It's a very small time commitment, but will make a huge difference to your student volunteers and to their families!! Thanks!

## Training Committee

DeBora King: [dkndc@msn.com](mailto:dkndc@msn.com)

Fall training was held on September 25<sup>th</sup>, and it was a great success! We had 80 attendees, and the feedback about the topics being offered and our experienced, enthusiastic trainers was amazing! The overall consensus is that PTAs want more of the same. The committee is aware that location can be an issue for some, and we are working on centralizing the area to make it easier for all to attend.

## Website Committee

Paul Morrison: [wallyboy53@comcast.net](mailto:wallyboy53@comcast.net)

### Website Coordinators

Kevin David [webmaster@mccpta.com](mailto:webmaster@mccpta.com)

Sharon Goodall [sharon.goodall@gmail.com](mailto:sharon.goodall@gmail.com)

Enhancing MCCPTA's ability to communicate quickly and effectively with local PTAs, postings to the website this month included :

- Updates on MCCPTA activities, including
  - The BOE Candidates forum
  - The announcement of the retirement of Dr. Weast
  - Common Core special program presentation
  - The BOE schedule of meetings with clusters
  - Cultural Arts Showcase

- President's newsletter

As a source of organizational reference postings included :

- Committee workplans
- CIP and Operating Budget Priorities and Operating Budget Compact Resolutions
- Grassroots Advocacy information

As a repository of our organization's history, actions included:

- Archiving older news items and reports

The Goal of Catch Up :

Current chair and coordinators are catching up to the task of maintaining the website with its nearly daily updates. We have begun to settle into a routine rhythm of updates.

The Goal of Clean up:

Some clean up has been done on an ad-hoc basis. A thorough survey of what needs to be scrubbed has not yet begun.

Tweak and Enhance:

No enhancements yet.

Plan for the future:

The existing platform being used for our website is based on a proprietary software product, MS Dreamweaver. This presents the burden for any volunteers to have access to this expensive software product. There are currently practical open source platforms available for no cost. Transitioning to a new platform will be a large effort; some research will be conducted to identify candidate platforms and plan out a transition.

There are many ideas abroad in our organization about reorganizing our website and the information inside. Under the direction and approval of MCCPTA, these propositions deserve due consideration.