

## **Safety Committee Update**

Laurie Halverson talked with Director of Safety, Bob Hellmuth, MCPS Director of Safety and Security on July 2. Here is a summary of our discussion:

**Lighting:** They put outdoor lighting in schools on a case-by-case basis. Neighbors raise concerns about lights shining in their house. There is data that shows that lighting at schools can decrease activity/theft/crime incidents.

**CCTV (Closed Circuit Television) Systems** will be replaced in all High Schools and added to all Middle Schools over a six year period.

**Visitor Management Systems** will be in all schools and **visitor access systems in all elementary schools** (six year phase-in): These systems will have a scanner for staff/students/parents upon entry of the school building. Registered sex offenders will be in the data base as well as child custody information (entered in by each school on a local level). Vendors will be subject to scan also and will be subject to sex offender data base also-they will have a badge that will be printed out and it will have an expiration date. Elementary Schools will have a camera (on back or side door) and strike release and intercom system. Clemente Middle school is a pilot school for the visitor management system.

**Sex Offender registry:** MCPS is updated every day with new data and they keep in touch with schools on a daily basis.

**Website:** The MCPS Safety Department's website is out of date and they don't have a website expert on their staff currently to update it.

**Portables:** MCPS is moving portables that are too old (For example, some MCPS owned 1986 portables were moved this summer to Rocky Hill Middle School.) The committee will discuss advocacy needs for better quality portables, better maintenance of portables, better HVAC systems in portables and rules on moving portables.

**Alcohol/ Drug Abuse:** Laurie Halverson met with Meg Baker of "Drawing the Line on Underage Alcohol Use." This is a nonprofit organization that helps with education of underage drinking/drug abuse and provides activities to support their efforts. Laurie will attend quarterly meetings as a partner/MCCPTA representative in their efforts. One service they provide is to conduct random surveys in schools on alcohol and drug abuse. Recent results show that usage in our county is below the state and U.S. usage.

We will have our first committee meeting in September at Carver, time and date will be announced in late August.