

March 2009

MCCPTA Special Education Committee Report

Chair: Jeanne Taylor

Our last meeting of the school year was held on Monday, February 2, 2009. We showed the Rick Lavoie video, "Last One Picked, First One Picked On". Many felt this presentation was helpful but perhaps not as informative as Mr. Lavoie's prior films. Due to the level of interest, information on how to purchase additional Rick Lavoie videos was sent to the Special Education Chair Listserv.

We are gearing up for our annual Special Education Awards ceremony. We have received almost fifty nominations, along two requests for deadline extensions. Many thanks to Sharon Goodall who updated our electronic submission form for us. Entertainment for the opening ceremony has been confirmed – the audience will be treated to the sounds of a band featuring three young musicians. The food order has been placed with Rock Terrace Bistro.

Janice Edwing, Special Education Chair for Darnestown ES, has been representing our committee on the GRIT Committee. Here is an excerpt from her last posting to our list:

Good Afternoon All: Please find January's Flash report from GRIT. Of extra special note this month is the last action item. MCPS is soliciting stakeholder feedback from special populations on the impact of policy IKA, Grading and Reporting. (It provides the grading and reporting website location with related documentation.)

Rudy Dockery, Special Education Chair for Galway ES, has been representing our committee on the Secondary Learning Center Transition Project Management Team.

Rudy was not able to attend one of the last meetings due to an injury.

We are very appreciative of Kay Romero's public testimony to the BOE on the recent report published by MCPS on the closing of the Learning Centers. We continue to support a continuum of placement options for special education students.

There is no update on the replacement of the ES Chair who resigned because of a family commitment but another chair was recently identified for the Maryvale ES PTA.