



April 24, 2009

Ms. Kay Romero, President
Montgomery County Council of PTAs, Inc.
2096 Gaither Road
Suite 204
Rockville, Maryland 20850

Dear Ms. Romero:

As chief school performance officer for Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS), I have been asked to respond to your letter of April 1, 2009, to Dr. Jerry D. Weast, superintendent of schools, regarding parent representation during a review of course-related fees.

As you know, this year a review of the implementation of course-related fees was completed by MCPS staff and legal representation in order to identify areas for improvement and ensuring alignment with current Maryland law. Enhancements were made in the areas of the number of fees, consistency among schools, and communication with parents, with implementation of these enhancements planned for the 2009–2010 school year.

A review will take place during the initial implementation of these enhancements and parental input will be critical to ascertaining the effectiveness of our enhancements and identifying additional areas of improvement while adhering to Maryland law. Along with a formal workgroup made up of identified stakeholder representation, additional feedback will be captured through a website that will allow all community members, including parents, to ask questions and offer comments regarding the changes to the course-related fees implementation.

We recognize that parental input is essential to ensuring the success of student achievement through the quality of our instruction and curriculum, and we value our partnership with our parents. I appreciate your interest and our partnership while we work together to sustain and champion a quality education for all students.

Sincerely,

Stephen L. Bedford
Chief School Performance Officer

SLB:dmm

Copy to: Dr. Weast, Dr. Lacey, Community Superintendents

Office of School Performance