The Montgomery County Council of Parent-Teacher Associations

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April 27, 2012

Ms. Shirley Brandman, President
Montgomery County Board of Education
850 Hungerford Drive, Room 123
Rockville, Maryland 20850

Dr. Joshua P.Starr, Superintendent
Montgomery County Public Schools
850 Hungerford Drive, Room 122
Rockville, Maryland 20850

Dear Ms. Brandman and Dr. Starr,

As we approach the end of the school year, I would like to reiterate the positions taken this year by the Montgomery County Council of PTAs and to encourage you to thoughtfully consider actions that can be taken to achieve the goals as set out in our adopted resolutions. These positions were adopted following evaluation in committee, introduction and distribution to our PTAs throughout the county, and thorough debate by a representative body.

The most recently adopted MCCPTA position supports legislation which would place the burden of proof in Individualized Education Program (IEP) disputes on the school district. We assume this will be introduced during the 2013 Maryland General Assembly and will actively support its passage.

I would also specifically direct your attention to the MCCPTA positions on *Preferred Choice in Consortium High Schools* and *Honors Courses in Middle School* and ask your support in reviewing the current MCPS processes. The themes of choice and/or options underlie both resolutions and we encourage a commitment by our district to addressing the concerns outlined in the resolutions. As with most all issues we tackle, these directly affect students' educational experiences and, thus, their achievement.

By the way, as MCCPTA adopts resolutions, we continue to advocate and hold to those positions. Attached are previously adopted resolutions which are still relevant today.

Finally, I thank you for your constant commitment to our schools and our children. It was a privilege to work with you and I am confident the excellent working relationship will continue with those who come after me. Our incoming MCCPTA President, Janette Gilman, has a great deal of PTA experience and is a passionate advocate for children and parents. Her officers share a similar commitment to supporting families. I look forward to assisting the incoming officers in

their transition and I know I can count on the same from you. As always, please don't hesitate to contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Kristin Trible
President

cc: Dr. Freida Lacey
Dr. Beth Schiavino-Narvaez
Dr. Erick Lang

attachments