



The Montgomery County Council of Parent-Teacher Associations

April 1, 2009

Dr. Jerry D. Weast, Superintendent
Montgomery County Public Schools, Room 122
850 Hungerford Dr
Rockville, MD 20850

Dear Dr. Weast,

Curricular fees have been a topic for quite some time with differing opinions from many parents and school communities. The basic common thread is a concern for the quality of education for all children. As MCPS sought clarity on the fees issue, the school system formed a multi-level workgroup made up of school staff to look at curricular fees in schools across the county. That same workgroup lacked parent representation and thus, lacked input from all stakeholders.

Parents do not want to have their children experience a reduction in educational services as MCPS adjusts its policies and procedures related to curricular fees. Whether the decisions made by MCPS based on the workgroup's recommendations are adequate remains to be seen. It is important that all stakeholders have input and are kept informed as to the adjustments being made to make curricular fees uniform and adequate to cover needed materials in any classroom.

The Montgomery County Council of PTAs (MCCPTA) requests that there be no reductions in the following:

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| 1 - the quality of instruction, | 3 - the assortment of course offerings, |
| 2 - the quality of the curriculum, | 4 - the level of student achievement. |

In order to help achieve the above, all decisions affecting children in educational settings must be made with all stakeholders having the ability to give input. Parent involvement must be sought and supported by the school system, especially when workgroups are put together at the school system level for decisions that affect children.

MCCPTA looks forward to working in a continued respectful partnership with MCPS to support all children in various MCPS educational settings.

Sincerely,

Kay Romero, President
Montgomery County Council of PTAs (MCCPTA)

Cc. Shirley Brandman, President, Board of Education
Larry Bowers, Chief Operating Officer, MCPS



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MOTION REGARDING CURRICULAR FEES
Approved by the MCCPTA Delegates
March 24, 2009

Students are entitled to a free public education. As MCPS and the Board of Education review changes to the policies and/or procedures regarding curricular fees, MCCPTA wants to ensure that these changes do not result in any reduction in the level of services as it relates to any of the following:

- 1- the quality of instruction,
- 2- the quality of the curriculum,
- 3- the assortment of course offerings,
- 4- the level of student achievement.

MCCPTA, parents and students should be notified of any proposed changes to policies and/or procedures regarding curricular fees. These stakeholders should have an opportunity to provide public comment before any new procedures are put into place.