



**MCCPTA Testimony  
Before the Montgomery County Board of Education  
January 12, 2010**

Good morning Members of the Board and Dr. Weast. I am Kay Romero, President of the Montgomery County Council of PTAs.

The Board of Education is planning today to take tentative action on Policy ABC, Parental Involvement. The board states that the policy was updated to remove regulatory language and align with research-based national standards for family-school partnerships

Let's talk about both policy and regulation.

Policy is a statement of principle or goals adopted by the school board which usually requires regulations to be formulated for its implementation. Regulations are under the control of the superintendent and staff and can be changed at anytime without notice to parents. Parents are outright excluded on the regulation side.

MCPS routinely seeks parents to sit on policy workgroups. At the same time the school system has quietly instituted a path of excluding parents from regulation workgroups. It is wrong to ask parents to sit on policy workgroups to gut school system policies and then exclude those same parents from the regulation workgroups. Why should any group continue to send parent representatives to sit on school system policy workgroups only to have them later told they cannot participate in the regulation workgroup for the same policy?

If feedback is integral to the process of developing and revising school system policies, strategic planning, budget development, and the implementation of school district initiatives then so should feedback from parents in developing regulations for the implementation of school system policies. Including parents cannot just be when it is convenient. It must be all the time.

The ABC in Policy ABC Parental Involvement should stand for Access, Belief and Collaboration. The school system should give parents access to the regulation workgroups to support their belief that language removed from the policy will be inserted as regulatory language. This would be done while working in collaboration with the school system through the policy revision process with parents at the table. It really is as simple as ABC.

***From Tentative Policy ABC Parent Involvement-The Board provides opportunities for parents and other members of the public to provide feedback through public comments at Board meetings, written and e-mail correspondence, service on advisory committees, and participation in public hearings and community forums. Feedback from a broad spectrum of our diverse community is integral to the processes of developing and revising school system policies, strategic planning, budget development, and implementation of school district initiatives.***

Thank You,

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