The Montgomery County Council of Parent-Teacher Associations

Since 1944

Dr. Carey Wright, Associate Superintendent
Office of Special Education and Student Services
Montgomery County Public Schools
850 Hungerford Drive
Rockville, MD 20850

May 28, 2007

Dear Dr. Wright:

I am writing with regard to your office's request for MCCPTA representation on the Special Education Staffing Plan Committee. As of today, MCCPTA has only been able to identify one parent who is willing to participate in this committee. We suspect this is due to the impression that the work of this committee was marginalized by the actions of your Office during the FY 2008 budget development.

In light of the fact that major realignments of special education services were not discussed within this committee, nor mentioned in the Special Education Staffing Plan that was prepared last year, MCCPTA would like some reassurance that this Committee and the Staffing Plan have meaning beyond just satisfying a legal requirement. Parents do not want to feel that their service is a waste of time, and that the committee is just going through the motions so that MCPS can satisfy COMAR.

To re-familiarize ourselves with the purpose of the Special Education Staffing Plan, we reviewed *Technical Assistance Bulletin 2* issued by the Maryland State Department of Education in April, 2002, which describes the contents and process of staffing plans particularly with regard to public input.

MCCPTA asks that the Office of Special Education and Student Services take a more expansive view of what should be discussed within this committee and reevaluate its position that significant staffing realignments fall outside the purview of this committee. Our representatives and all community representatives give their time; please don't waste it.

Sincerely,

Jane de Winter

Dr. Jane de Winter
President

Cc. Dr. Frieda Lacey