MCCPTA President's Report
Frances Frost
September 2015

Throughout the summer, I continued to meet with MCCPTA and local leaders, in regards to various issues including:

- Local PTA and Cluster concerns and planning
- Establishing MCCPTA Achievement Gap workgroup to examine efforts in MCPS to address the achievement gap and develop ways to support parents in helping their children to close the achievement gap

The Executive Committee met formally twice, and communicated via email and phone calls to take care of the business of MCCPTA including:

- planning fall training,
- appointing Committee Chairmen,
- developing draft budget for 2015-16,
- developing draft Advocacy Priorities, based on discussions and feedback from Summer Area Meetings.

MCCPTA Events & Meetings

- MCCPTA Spring Training (Gaithersburg HS) - June 3
- MCCPTA Executive Committee Meeting, Board of Directors Meeting (CESC, Rockville) June 4

Summer Area & Executive Meetings

- Damascus, Gaithersburg, Magruder, and Watkins Mill - June 16
- Bethesda-Chevy Chase, Walter Johnson, Whitman - June 22
- Committee Chairmen – June 29
- Clarksburg, Northwood, Quince Orchard, Seneca Valley – June 30
- Churchill, R Montgomery, Poolesville, Rockville, and Wootton – July 9
- Downcounty Consortium – July 13
- Blake, Paint Branch, Springbrook, Sherwood – July 20
- Executive Committee Meetings: June 20, August 5

National PTA Convention, Charlotte NC, June 24-28, 2015

- Represented MCCPTA & Maryland PTA as Convention Delegate
- Served as Microphone Monitor for convention business sessions; PTA Coach
- Attended Common Core Training, as representative of Maryland PTA

Maryland PTA Board Meeting – August 8, 2015

Events & Meetings

- ACES Awards Celebration, June 16, 2015
- National PTA ESEA Press Conference, June 23, 2015
- Montgomery County Public Library – Discussion to support Library of the Future forum, Sept. 24, 2015
- Linkages to Learning – Discussion to support work of Linkages in MCPS Schools
- Saturday School – Discussion to collaborate in providing parents information about resources available through Saturday School and encouraging PTA involvement and engagement.

MCPS Meetings

- MCPS Alternative Design Meetings: Attended meetings through summer, concluding on Sept. 1, 2015, with MCPS and representatives from county and state agencies regarding alternative design options for schools, primarily repurposed community space and designs on smaller sites. Cheryl Pierce also participated as representative for MCCPTA.
- MCPS Budget Review – July 29, 2015
- Executive Committee Meeting with Larry Bowers, Interim Superintendent – Aug. 24, 2015
- Attended Board of Education Meeting, in support of approval of B-CC MS #2 contracts – Aug. 20, 2015.

Vice President of Educational Issues Officer Monthly Report
September 2015
Michelle Gluck vpedissues@mccpta.com

Meetings over the summer:

Summer Area meetings (Various dates)

The summer area meetings are summarized in other places, but thanks to everyone who came out for a robust and well-attended series of meetings. Educational issues of widespread interest across all areas include:

-- Testing, testing (see below);
-- Class sizes and their effects on the learning experience beyond just test scores;
-- Specific learner differentiation, both in the classroom (mainstreaming of special education students; appropriate differentiation across levels; middle school leveling of English; growing pressure on ESOL resources) and out of the classroom (eligibility).

June 20: Executive Committee meeting

July 16: MCPS Interview panel for Secondary Literacy Supervisor

July 23: Meeting with BOE member Jill Ortman-Fouse

Aug. 24: Executive Committee with Larry Bowers

Upcoming meetings:

Sept. 19: MCCPTA Fall Training

Sept. 21: Scott Murphy, Director, Secondary Curriculum and Districtwide Programs

Sept. 28: Executive Committee with Larry Bowers

Sept. 28: Choice study interview panel

Ongoing Issues

Testing, testing, and more testing

When last we left our heroes, changes were being explored and proposed at both the county and state level for the number, scope, and uses of standardized assessments, including proposed changes to the PARCC. Since we last met, two changes have been announced:
-- PARCC testing will undergo modifications to reduce from two to one testing window; and
-- MCPS is significantly changing its countywide final assessments on high school credit classes, starting with eliminating the county final requirement for some subjects in which there are also PARCC assessments.

Some parents have expressed concern that the BOE's vote was motivated more by an attempt to mollify the concerns about the amount of time spent on testing, without adequate attention to whether the remaining assessments are well suited to the purposes to which they'll be put. Some have also questioned whether elimination of the county finals is simply a tool to eliminate public outcry over the math final exam failure rates.
And some have expressed concern that the replacement assessments will not be standardized enough to be fair. When we met with Larry Bowers in August, he said that the final exams would not be eliminated until the alternative assessments have been developed. We will continue to monitor developments in this area.

Meanwhile, hot off the presses, as this report went to press on Aug. 31, the Maryland Teachers Association launched a half million dollar ad campaign on the theme of "Less Testing, More Learning." I don't watch television but I'm guessing these ads are not in favor of testing.

Committee Chairs
List of the confirmed 2015-16 Committee Chairs (attached)
We are eager to hear from anyone who is interested in filling a vacant chair or joining a committee. Don't be shy!

MCCPTA Vice President for Administration, Kellie Schoolar-Reynolds
Officer Report- September MCCPTA BOD Meeting

June 1, 2015 to August 30, 2015- Meetings and Events

June 3 MCCPTA Spring Training (Gaithersburg HS)
June 4 MCCPTA Executive Committee Meeting (CESC, Rockville)
June 4 MCCPTA Board of Directors Meeting (CESC, Rockville)
June 16 MCCPTA Summer Area Meeting- Damascus, Gaithersburg, Magruder, Watkins Mill (Gaithersburg HS)
June 20 MCCPTA Executive Committee Meeting (Frances Frost's home)
June 29 MCCPTA Committees Meeting (Bel Pre ES)
June 30 MCCPTA Summer Area Meeting- Clarksburg, NWest, QO, Seneca Valley (Ridgeview MS)
July 9 MCCPTA Summer Area Meeting- Churchill, RM, Poolesville, Rockville, Wootton (RM HS)
July 13 MCCPTA Summer Area Meeting- DCC (Argyle MS)
(Prior to convention- multiple discussions about PTA credentials)
July 16 MD PTA Board of Directors Meeting, sub for Frances Frost (Crown Plaza Rockville)
July 17-18 MD PTA Summer Conventions (Crown Plaza Rockville)

July 18	MD advocacy lunch, sponsored by MCCPTA (That's Amore, Rockville)
August 5	MCCPTA Executive Committee Meeting (Frances Frost's home)
August 11	Met with Ghazala Long to discuss MCCPTA Fall Training
August 29	Met with Ghazala Long to discuss MCCPTA Fall Training

SoCA activities

MD PTA did not send any SoCA reports over the summer. The last SoCA information from MD PTA was a series of letters sent on May 8 to PTAs that were not fully compliant. Based on interactions at the MD PTA convention, it is obvious that PTAs need to pay attention to their compliance information. I can assist if there are disagreements with information on the reports.

Upcoming activities

If needed, update standing rules (most work by e-mail)
Elect nominating committee at Nov BOD meeting.

Goals for the year

1. Make sure all local PTAs receive the attention and assistance that they need. Work with cluster coordinators to understand how they interact with the local PTAs. Provide supplemental training, if needed.
2. Determine which PTAs need close attention. Work with cluster coordinators to provide assistance.
3. Pay attention to misunderstandings of bylaws and other rules. Intervene as needed.
4. MCCPTA succession planning- inform local PTA leaders, delegates, and BOD members of opportunities.
5. Make sure local PTAs and cluster coordinators are aware of resources available to them.
6. (Personal goal)- participate in achievement gap group