

March 2009

## **MCCPTA Down County Consortium (DCC) Committee Report**

**Chair: Sally Tabor**

The DCC Committee did not meet in February, but two clusters, Kennedy and Northwood, hosted a meeting with the BOE. Both meetings were well-attended by principals and PTA leaders from the cluster schools.

In addition, the Blair and Northwood clusters are starting a boundary committee to look at elementary school assignments for the following schools: Takoma Park ES, Piney Branch ES, East Silver Spring ES, and Sligo Creek ES. The two middle schools, which receive these students, Takoma Park MS and Silver Spring International MS are also represented on the Boundary Committee. The initial community meeting was held Tuesday, February 24, and the Boundary Committee meetings have been scheduled starting in March. The Boundary Study is being done because East Silver Spring is moving from a pre-K-2 school to a pre-K to 5th grade configuration and overcrowding at Sligo Creek needs to be relieved. Both ESS and TPES will have additions built starting next year.

The following communication was sent to DCC coordinators:

Dear DCC cluster coordinators,

This email with several issues/events that are coming up in March and April, on which I need a response from you:

1. --scheduling a March DCC cluster coordinators meeting
2. --participation in lobbying trips to Annapolis
3. --cluster testimony on Operating Budget before County Council

I would like to schedule a March cluster coordinators meeting after March 10. Tentative agenda items include: review of data from first round choice for DCC and MSMC for next fall; update on budget issues from our Community Superintendents; preparation for County Council testimony on operating budget; DCC leadership for next year.

### **ACTION NEEDED:**

1. Here are some possible meeting dates—please let me your availability in the next few days:
  - Wed, March 11
  - Thurs, March 12
  - Mon, March 16
  - Wed, March 18
  - Mon, March 23
  - Wed, March 25
  - Thurs, March 26
  - Mon, March 30 (students have no school because it is the end of 3rd qtr)
2. Annapolis lobbying trips-night. There is a MCCPTA leadership trip planned for Monday, March 9, 6-8 pm with two school union groups. MCCPTA is encouraging BOD members to attend this meeting. I think I can go and drive. If you are interested in going, please respond and we'll arrange a carpool. You may also be able to carpool with staff from your school.
3. Annapolis lobbying trips-daytime. MCCPTA VP for Legislation, Rebecca S. has been setting up daytime lobbying trips to Annapolis by cluster. I have heard now at 2 different meetings that this is an important year for Montgomery County PTA leaders to come to Annapolis and talk to their delegates. MCCPTA will provide talking points on both operating and CIP issues. Rebecca will also set up meetings with our local delegations. She has already set up trip dates for Wed, March 18 and Wed, March 25. However, I

cannot do either day as I am working, but I could do Tuesday, March 17, and there are several education-related bills that will have hearings that afternoon starting at 1 pm.

Please let me know if you are interested and available in going to a daytime lobbying trip on the following dates: March 17, March 18 or March 25. I think the proposed schedule starts at 10 am in Annapolis with time for a tour, meeting local delegates and Senators, and attending an afternoon hearing. Other interested PTA leaders and members are encouraged to go on these trips. I know that 2 Blair folks—Jeannie Philbin and Jill Ortman-Fouse have said that they are interested. Do you have others in your cluster who would come? We can try to carpool.

4. Operating budget testimony before County Council: Liz Wheeler told me that the DCC clusters are scheduled to testify on Wed., April 15. Please check your calendars and let me know if one of your coordinators can testify that night. There will also be testimony on April 16. I'll send more info about this later, but please let me and Liz know who will testify for your cluster.