

MCCPTA GRADING & REPORTING COMMITTEE UPDATE

August 31, 2007

The Grading & Reporting Committee last met on March 19, 2007. Since that meeting, the following G&R issues have been discussed and/or feedback has been collected:

The MCCPTA's proposed **Resolution on Secondary Final Grade Calculations** was tabled last April pending collection of further research and/or feedback on the impact. Later, the chair of the Grading & Reporting Implementation Team (GRIT) introduced proposed language to change the procedure for calculation of secondary final grades (similar to the MCCPTA's proposed Resolution). The GRIT-proposed language involved calculating final grades by numerical versus letter grades and discontinuing use of the Grade Configuration Table. Feedback from the MCCPTA body (as well as other stakeholder groups) will be requested by MCPS on this in the near future (as MCPS' desire is to make a formal recommendation in January).

OARS Workgroup: The OARS workgroup held its last meeting in May and has not reconvened for this school year. At the end of last school year, it was suggested by this workgroup to MCPS leadership that several changes be suggested to teachers, potentially downsizing the number of grade categories and, thereafter, method for assigning points to assignments in each category (weighting). The Montgomery County Education Association dissented from the workgroup's preliminary recommendation and, it was suggested that this recommendation be held pending further discussion and review.

High School Final Exam Workgroup (FEWG): This workgroup convened for 5 meetings in July and August to address Patricia O'Neill's memorandum regarding the issue of whether to exempt Advanced Placement, International Baccalaureate and Cambridge International students from the MCPS final exam. Feedback collected by electronic survey of the MCCPTA suggested that MCCPTA preferred exempting all AP/IB/CIE students *who take the AP/IB/CIE external exam*, from taking the MCPS final exam. The draft recommendation of the workgroup currently suggests that all students *enrolled in AP/IB/CIE classes be exempted from the final, but complete and end-of-course culminating activity or assessment which will count for 25% of the semester grade (same as the final exam)*. Additional feedback is being obtained from MCCPTA members now to determine whether the MCCPTA can support the FEWG's draft recommendation and the added caveat delineated in the preceding underscored text.

Regulation IKA (IKA-RA): A committee has met and began collection of text, researching and preliminary drafting the new IKA-RA. When a draft is ready for review and input (expected in September) stakeholder groups will be invited (including MCCPTA parents) to join in on the review phase before a final is produced for approval or forwarding to the Policy Committee.

The next meeting of the Grading & Reporting Committee will be held on Monday, September 17, 2007 at 7:00 p.m. in Carver Conference Room 120.