

Guidance and Counseling Committee

The last meeting for this school year is June 3 (10-11 am) in Room 120 in Carver. Details are posted on the MCCPTA calendar. A meeting was held on April 1.

The committee has been collecting information about student to counselor ratios. Since MCCPTA has already established a reduction in the number of students to counselors at the elementary school level as an operating budgeting priority for FY 2009 the committee is considering whether there is adequate support for counselors out on sick leave. The committee has determined that if a counselor is absent for more that 2 and less than 60 days then a principal will request, through their community superintendent, a substitute counselor to be provided / funded by MCPS human resources. If counselors are not assigned to a particular school possible explanations include; no request from the principal or a hiring / replacement freeze is in effect.

The committee has been fortunate to have Kent Weaver, Supervisor MCPS School Counseling Services, attend our last meeting. At our last meeting he reported that there are many new mandates for counselors at all grade levels. There so many possible mandates to report that in the interest of time and space only a small sampling of the mandates are offered. Elementary schools are taking a particular interest in net safety. Middle school counselors are working on encouraging advanced class placement for non-traditional students. Booklets providing students with the information required to prepare for college have been translated into 5 major languages. And high school counselors are preparing for the largest college fair on the east coast. The National Association for College Admission Counseling (NACAC) is sponsoring its Annual National College Fair in Montgomery County on April 18-19.

Lastly, the committee is looking over the most recent operating budget, submitted by the County Executive in March 2008. The next report should include committee concerns regarding counseling services under this budget. Hopefully these considerations will provide the groundwork for FY 2010's budgeting priorities.

Anne Gallagher, Chair
agm@saltywaters.org