

Monthly Report: MCCPTA Health Committee
Tracy A. Fox, MPH, RD
Submitted March 16, 2007

Sex Ed Curriculum Pilot Testing Underway:

The State Board of Education denied a request by several organizations to stop the pilot testing and the pilot testing is taking place in 3 middle schools and 3 high schools for the MCPS Health Education Curriculum components on Sexual Variation and condom use lessons and the condom use video. Pilot testing is an important part of the process and will help determine how to improve and enhance the curriculum. Results of the pilot testing will be presented to the board later in Spring with refinements made over the summer.

I am particularly interested in talking to parents of children who have participated in the classroom discussions with the new information. Please feel free to contact me at tracyfox@comcast.net.

School Lunch Forum Draws Parents from Across the County

Parents Aviva Goldfarb and Carrie Witkoff (North Chevy Chase and Rosemary Hills Parents) organized a School Lunch Forum that was held at NCC on Thursday, March 15. Parents from across the county were invited to hear from MCPS Division of Food and Nutrition services as well as policy makers. Over 70 parents attended and after a presentation by MCPS staff on how the food service operation works, how menus are developed, and what changes are being made, parents – and a few students – asked questions and expressed concerns. Main concerns raised included the nutritional quality of lunch items, the lack of fresh fruit in an easy-to-eat form, and how menus were developed. MCPS staff responded and committed to looking into issues of concern. Other county officials including Shirley Brandman and Judy Docca (BOE members) as well as George Leventhal (County Councilman) and Jeff Waldstreicher (newly elected county delegate) provided remarks. A number of members of the press and photographers were there.

MCCPTA has gone on record urging MCPS to appoint parents, officially, to the menu committee and MCCPTA recently asked the BOE to re-establish the MCPS Wellness Policy Committee to address a number of nutrition and physical education issues. MCCPTA will continue to be active in promoting healthy school environments through good nutrition and greater opportunities for physical activity.

Parents interested in hosting their own School Lunch Forum are welcome to contact me for ideas on how best to do that (tracyfox@comcast.net).