

MCCPTA Health Committee Update
Tracy Fox, MPH, RD, Chair
Aug. 28, 2007

Update on Citizens Advisory Committee on Family Life and Human Development:

The Pilot Test of the new sex ed curriculum went well and the State Board of Education supported MCPS efforts to move forward with full implementation this coming school year in the 8th and 10th grades.

Brian Porter was the liaison between MCPS and the committee but he will be retiring to pursue his doctorate. Lori-Christina Webb will serve as the new liaison to the CAC. Ms. Webb, who is the executive assistant to the deputy superintendent of schools, is familiar to most committee members from her work last year on revisions to the health education curriculum.

Physical Education:

I received feedback from MCPS on what the rules are for PE sports that are selected and safety gear. Info is on next page. This is a start. If there are more questions or concerns, then let me know.

School Foods:

Wellness Fair: MCPS Division of Food and Nutrition Services is hosting a Fall Wellness Fair to help education community members about school foods as well as physical activity. I will be attending a meeting on Sept. 5th.

Tour of Foodservice Operation: I received an invite (as did most of BOD I believe) to attend one of three info sessions on the MCPS Division of Food and Nutrition Services operation, including a briefing and a tour of the food service facility. I have contacted BOE VP Shirley Brandman to see if other parents can attend. I have toured the operation before so will not be participating in any of these events.

PTA Questions regarding Physical Education in schools

Information sheet compiled by Tracy Fox, MPH, RD
Chair, Health Committee, MCCPTA

*Question/comments: Consistency across MSs in the sports/activities covered during PE classes (I.e., why do some schools teach certain sports units and others do not?)
Use of proper safety equipment when sports taught during PE (Equipment that is required in JV and Varsity sports not necessarily used in PE classes for same sports)*

Summarized answers/information from MCPS Physical Education Coordinator:

Physical Education class (and lacrosse): Some schools teach lacrosse and some do not. Teachers can determine the sports that are used to teach certain concepts. Teachers use the MCPS Secondary PE Instructional Guide (IG) to determine which sports to select from in teaching movement skills and concepts.

The IG also includes information about instructional modifications and safety. Once the new standards-based curriculum that is currently under development is approved and teachers have received training on implementation, teachers will use that as a guide. Until then, the IG is used.

In the physical education class during the school day, the rules are modified to promote learning; the competitive nature of sports is greatly reduced with more emphasis placed on conceptual and tactical problem solving.

Intramural sports after school: intramurals after school are considered an extension of the physical education program – intramurals are not part of the MCPA athletic program. The decision to include lacrosse as an after school intramural in middle school is, again, the decision of the staff. Equipment and expertise are factors considered in whether or not Lacrosse is include as an intramural after school.

Questions about the athletic program (not PE or intramurals) are to be referred to Gaby von Nordheim for middle school and William "Duke" Beattie, director of athletics for high schools.