

MCCPTA Committee Report for September 2008

Health Committee Report

Chair: Susan Young

I am delighted to begin my work as the Chair of the MCCPTA Health Committee and am actively seeking names of people who would like to stay abreast of MCPS health issues via our email list serve. If you would like to be included, please send your email address to me at susan@youngspa.com.

Update on MCPS School Wellness Committee

MCPS has reconvened a Wellness Policy Work Group, on which I will represent MCCPTA, along with two other parents. The group's charge is to:

- Review the language in JPG-RA (the MCPS Regulation on Wellness: Physical and Nutritional Health) to draft recommendations on ways to increase physical activity opportunities for our students. The JPG-RA document is available on the MCCPTA Health Committee web page.
- Review the recommendations in the Center for Science in the Public Interest (CSPI) marketing report. The report is available on the MCCPTA Health Committee web page.
- Review the language in JPG-RA pertaining to the nutritional standards for foods and beverages available for sale to students from midnight until the end of the instructional day. Make recommendations to the current standards if appropriate.

Maryland General Assembly

Legislation (HB 503) has been introduced in the General Assembly (<http://mlis.state.md.us/2008rs/billfile/HB0503.htm>) related to physical education and physical activity. The interest of the Bill centered on the strong connection between obesity, lack of physical activity and disease states impacting children's health. The bill language wanted to increase the time in physical education but there was no funding attached. There will be a state-wide advisory group convened to review programs and make recommendation.

Legislation was also introduced, and passed into law, establishing a Committee on Childhood Obesity to provide specified recommendations to the Governor and the General Assembly.

<http://mlis.state.md.us/2008rs/billfile/HB1176.htm>

Other information:

Action for Healthy Kids has issued a report entitled: *Progress or Promises? What's Working For and Against Healthy Schools*. A copy of the report is available at www.actionforhealthykids.org.

I will also represent MCCPTA on the Montgomery County School Health Council and the MCPS Citizen's Advisory Committee for Family Life and Human Development.