

March 2009

MCCPTA Legislative Committee Report

Chair: Rebecca Smondrowski

One of our main objectives for the Legislative Committee this year has been working to establish relationships between MCCPTA and the other county organizations while increasing our advocacy in Annapolis. Working together adds strength to all of our organizations, and is a great chance for us to show support for each other while doubling our efforts to maintain funds for our schools.

In that vein, we have planned a couple of leadership events with MCEA (teachers unions), MCAASP (administration association), SEIU (service employees union), as well as the Retired Teachers union. These are evenings of advocacy for our Board members and Delegates and a chance to show the state that we are all working together to support the needs of our county. Monday, March 9th we will be holding one of those events from 6-8 at the House Building in Annapolis. I encourage every Board Member and Delegate to make joining us a top priority. Bus service and a box dinner will be provided, and it should prove to be a great evening of advocacy. (These are RSVP events.)

The Legislative committee also continues organizing weekly day trips for groups during the legislative session. We encourage everyone to attend and to pass the information on to the schools. Carpools should leave by 8:30am at the latest. Occasionally, meetings with the state delegates are scheduled for 9:30am and the legislative session begins at 10:00. If there is time, the MCCPTA visitors are announced from the House and Senate floors. Members are scheduled to meet with state Delegates and Senators based on their districts, and at noon we have been taking tours of the capital. The purpose of the visits is to let legislators know that MCCPTA cares about what they are doing, and to express support for delivering full funding to MCPS programs. The Board of Education and the County Council have urged this advocacy in Annapolis, and the Legislation really seems to notice that we are there. The feedback from our elected officials so far has been exceptional.

If anyone is interested in joining us for any of the upcoming trips, please contact Rebecca Smondrowski as soon as possible for the Guest List.

On the home-front, we are continuing to work with the MDPTA Legislative Committee, and are trying to keep current on all legislative issues and how they are affecting Montgomery County as well as the state. A list of current and significant bills is on the website, and is being updated regularly. In addition, all MD House and Senate legislation can be tracked at <http://mlis.state.md.us>

On Thursday, February 19th Rebecca Smondrowski and Kay Romero testified in Annapolis with regard to the \$280 million Capital Improvement Program as well as the Aging Schools Program.