

MCCPTA Legislative Committee Report for the September 4th BOD:

The Legislative Committee continues to work on getting ready for the Legislative Dinner on November 10th. As of today, 22 of our 32 representatives plan to attend the dinner and only one has confirmed that they won't be able to make it. We have also had quite a few coffees with members of our delegation and shared concerns raised at this summer's area meetings. A few highlights from our conversations as well as from the Committee for Montgomery meetings:

- When budgets are tight, advocacy becomes even more important. Please let the MCCPTA Board of Directors members that serve you know what your issues are so that they can represent them at the Legislative Dinner. Seating is by District, so they will be chatting with your Maryland State Senator and Delegates.
- Our Legislators are open to out of the box thinking about issues that are important to us. Yes, there's no money. But that doesn't mean that the needs of Montgomery County's public school children should go unmet. Come up with a creative solution to a problem, and let's go for it.
- We all read the newspaper so we know how tight budgets are (and where the economy is taking us). GCEI and the state-funded portion of our teacher pensions are in play. The teacher pension shift would require a vote of the legislature, so it's critical that we let our legislators know how we feel about the impact this would do to our local budgets.

The committee is also continuing our work with the MD PTA Legislative Committee on their section of the MD PTA website, which we hope to have completed by the state convention. In closing, the committee would like to remind everyone to vote on November 4th!