

# MCCPTA

## January, 2011 Committee Reports

### Cultural Arts Committee

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In early December I sent out to the PTArts e-list the results of the annual Cultural Arts Budget Survey. Of the 37 schools for which I received updated information for the school year 2010-11, fourteen of the schools had their budgets go up, eleven went down, and twelve stayed the same as last year. This is similar to last year's results, and unfortunately, some of those that went down had drastic budget cuts made of 50% or more. However, it was a relief that in even in these difficult financial times, more schools had their budgets for cultural arts go up.

Despite the fact that I had first requested this information from all the schools' cultural arts representatives beginning at the time of Showcases in October, and followed up with reminder emails on the e-list at least twice, I still only received information from 37 schools in the county. Many of the county's schools have never responded at all – and apparently have never sent anyone to the Showcases either. And although I have a budget number listed for a lot of the schools, many of those numbers are quite out of date as no one has given me an update in recent years. (I always put the date of the most recent update on the survey.) We are never sure whether this means the school has just not bothered to send us the information, or whether it means they have no cultural arts program!

The use of the PTArts e-list continues to be active. Cultural arts reps from the schools are frequently contacting others about what performances they've had or hope to have, what others recommend, etc. If anyone is interested in joining the e-list, please encourage them to send their NAME, SCHOOL, and POSITION to [PTArts-](mailto:PTArts-subscribe@yahoo.com)

[subscribe@yahoo.com](mailto:subscribe@yahoo.com).

### Legislative Committee

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#### MCCPTA Legislature Dinner

Rebecca Smondrowski led the December effort to host County Council (CC), BoE, and the Montgomery County delegation to the General Assembly. CC, BoE, and delegates talked with PTA folks in small groups as well as before the entire assembly.

#### MCCPTA Legislative Forum

The MCCPTA Legislative Forum was held in January with all BoE members and CC Roger Berliner, Nancy Floreen, and George Leventhal in attendance to discuss the FY2012 budget.

BoE and CC members had a frank exchange of perspectives and opinions. The questions from the audience highlighted many citizen concerns. Forum participants noted there is a great deal they do not know in terms of budget details.

#### Legislative Committee web site

The MCCPTA web page is being updated with elected officials contact information and selected news and opinion resources.

The Legislative committee is working with BoD members and other folks to develop and refine the advocacy strategy for the FY 2012 budget negotiations at the BoE, CC, and MD General Assembly.