



President

Kay Romero
301-946-2190
president@mccpta.com

VP for Educational Issues

Ted Willard
301-212-9355
vpedissues@mccpta.com

VP for Administration

Liz Wheeler
301-424-8457
vpadmin@mccpta.com

VP for Legislation

Merry Eisner
301-983-5225
vplegislation@mccpta.com

VP for Programs

Karen Smith
240-338-0180
vpprograms@mccpta.com

Treasurer

Dale Ryan
301-253-1780
treasurer@mccpta.com

Recording Secretary BOD

Andrea Q. Bernardo
301-340-3011
secbod@mccpta.com

Recording Secretary DA

Patti Twigg
301-384-3847
secda@mccpta.com

MCCPTA Office

20906 Gaither Road
Suite 204
Rockville, MD 20850

Office Manager
Kelly Jonas
Phone 301-208-0111
Fax 301-208-2003

Visit our web site

www.mccpta.com

Welcome Back!!!!!!!

Summer is winding down and families are getting ready to start the school year. The first day of school is Tuesday, August 26. Please make sure your PTAs have reserved space for upcoming PTA meetings. If you have not, please fill out the use of schools paperwork and submit those items as soon as possible.

PTA work has been going on all summer. MCCPTA officers held Area Meetings in each of the quad clusters. We met many new faces and saw many long time PTA leaders coming together in a united advocacy effort.

The area meetings were started by our past MCCPTA president Cindy Kerr five years ago. These meetings are used to gather input to help guide MCCPTA advocacy for the upcoming school year. The value of these meetings has proven to be immense as it allows our organization to gather information directly from our local PTA leaders and community members regarding their concerns and advocacy needs. Items identified are then taken and used in drafting our MCCPTA Operating Budget Compact as well as our Resolution on MCCPTA Operating Budget Priorities. Both are used to help guide MCCPTA's and local PTA cluster testimony before the Board of Education and the County Council during budget hearings. These also guide MCCPTA's advocacy in the FY 2010 budget planning process with MCPS. MCCPTA representatives will again be participating in both the CIP and Operating Budget planning meetings with MCPS to bring our organization's advocacy priorities to the basic budget planning level.

Cluster coordinators should be setting up their meeting schedules for the 08-09 school year with PTA leadership in their clusters. Area vice presidents and cluster coordinators need to set up regular meeting

schedules with their respective community superintendents and school performance directors. Please let them know you want them to attend your cluster meetings.

As a reminder to PTA presidents, National PTA's Back to School Kits should be arriving soon as well as your PTA membership cards. Local PTAs should make sure to check their school mailboxes for these items. The 2008 - 2009 Maryland PTA Membership Theme is "Let's Get Growing!" Maryland PTA is challenging all local units to increase their membership by "5" members over last year's membership - a campaign referred to as "HIGH 5!" Please take advantage of your school open houses, school picnics, and back to school nights to encourage family and community members to join your school PTA. Please contact April Keyes at (301) 515-8249 or keyesa@sec.gov, if you would like someone from the MCCPTA Membership Committee to attend your Back-to-School Night to assist with increasing your membership.

Our fall training will take place on Saturday, September 6th, from 9am to 2pm at Rockville High School. There will be three sessions with different topics in each session. Lunch will be provided. All PTA leaders and interested members should attend. Many interesting topics will be discussed to enhance your PTA work in your school communities. Please see the included flyer in this newsletter to share with your PTAs and remember to post to your school listservs. Please be sure to share with your officers and committee chairs.

Remember to submit your Blue Book information to the MCCPTA office as soon as possible. PTAs rely upon this resource to contact other PTAs as well as access important community information. You can fill out the form online at: <http://www.mccpta.com/bluebook.html> or

print out a hard copy to mail to our MCCPTA office. The form is located on our website under the link for Blue Book. Please take the time to submit this information to our office as soon as possible. Contact our MCCPTA office manager, Kelly Jonas at 301-208-0111 for assistance or contact any MCCPTA officer.

Our MCCPTA Delegate Assemblies will begin again on Wednesday, September 24 (this date is not our usual Tuesday meeting night due to a scheduling conflict at Carver for this date.) Our Delegate Assemblies are business meetings and can include programs before the business meeting that are designed to give you information to take back to your local PTAs. See the calendar below for 2008-09:

September 24, 2008 (Fourth Wednesday)

No program

Intro to Delegates' Assembly & Committee Fair
7:00 pm – 9:30 pm

October 28, 2008 (Fourth Tuesday)

Why are we here?

Multi-cultural Parent Outreach & the Purposes of PTA
6:30 pm – 7:30 pm

Delegates' Assembly Business Meeting
7:30 pm – 9:30 pm

November 25, 2008 (Fourth Tuesday)

CyberSafety

MCPS/MoCo Police/ MD Attorney General
6:30 pm – 7:30 pm

Delegates' Assembly Business Meeting
7:30 pm – 9:30 pm

December [No Delegates' Assembly]

January 27, 2009 (Fourth Tuesday)

Student Service Learning (SSL) Hours
7:00 pm – 7:30pm Delegates' Assembly
Business Meeting 7:30 pm – 9:30
pm

February 24, 2009 (Fourth Tuesday)

Special Education
6:30 pm – 7:30 pm

Delegates' Assembly Business Meeting
7:30 pm – 9:30 pm

March 24, 2009 (Fourth Tuesday)

Curriculum in MCPS
6:30 pm – 7:30 pm

Delegates' Assembly Business Meeting
7:30 pm – 9:30 pm

April 28, 2009 (Fourth Tuesday)

No program: Elections

Delegates' Assembly Business Meeting
7:30 pm – 9:30 pm

May [date not set as it currently conflicts with the MCCPTA Principals & Presidents' Dinner]

MCCPTA Committees need volunteers. MCCPTA has committees dealing with literally dozen's of different issues. Please share the list of committees with the other parents at your school and tell them to go to the MCCPTA website or to call the MCCPTA office if they want more information about joining them. As a member of a MCCPTA committee, they can learn to advocate for the issues important to your PTA and can then share what they learn with the other parents at your school.

As we begin this school year, please remember to reach out to all parents on many different levels. Emails and listservs are fast easy ways to communicate, but we must not lose sight of the fact that information needs to reach all. Local PTAs need to reach out and be creative to make sure that all families are included and receive information. Please consider how you can use your parent resources within your school to reach out to families that may feel excluded. PTAs always need informational items translated and language barriers crossed using translators. Can your PTAs help to address this in your schools and plan to make it happen? Your PTA membership should reflect the diversity in your school community. Please remember to review the MCCPTA Website and join the MCCPTA Listservs to keep up to date about MCCPTA happenings and important information to share with your school communities on a regular basis.



Reminder:

May 28, 2008

Dear PTA President:

This letter is to inform you of an opportunity to partner with another PTA in Montgomery County to help build the capacity of that local PTA and to support their Linkages to Learning Program.

Linkages to Learning is a collaborative program between the school system, the Department of Health and Human Services, and private community providers which addresses the complex social and mental health needs of an increasingly diverse and economically impacted student population. Linkages sites are located at several elementary focus schools and a smaller number of middle schools. Many of these schools have struggling PTAs which makes it difficult for the PTA at the school to support the many needs of the students and families in the Linkages program.

MCCPTA and Linkages to Learning are looking for local PTAs that are interested in developing a partnership with the PTA at a Linkages school to build the capacity of that PTA and help the members develop programs for their own school as well as to directly assist the Linkages program by sponsoring such things as supply drives, coat drives, holiday gifts, and scholarships to after school programs within your own school community.

If your PTA would like to help a school community at a Linkages site but is unable to make an ongoing commitment to partner with another PTA, Linkages to Learning can work with your PTA or student government to sponsor drives in your own school.

There currently are a few PTAs who partner with PTAs at Linkages Schools: we are hoping to increase the number of partnerships and also increase community support for Linkages programs. If your PTA would be interested in partnering with a PTA at a Linkages school or could help bring resources to a Linkages program, please contact Haifa Peters at 240-777-1279 or Mary Wilson at 240-777-1661.

Sincerely,
Kay Romero
President

MCCPTA Fall Training
Saturday, Sept. 6, 2008 (9:00 AM - 2:00 PM)
Rockville High School, 2100 Baltimore Road
Rockville, MD 20851

SCHEDULE

9:00 - 9:20 AM	Registration and Refreshments
9:20 - 9:30AM	Move to first sessions
9:30 - 10:45AM	First sessions

Presidents & Vice Presidents
Treasurers (part 1)
Secretaries
MCCPTA Delegates
Area Vice Presidents/Cluster Coordinators
Legislative Advocacy/Grassroots Efforts
Reflections

11:00 - 12:15 PM	Second Sessions
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Foreign Language in Elementary School (FLES) & Hands on Science (HOS)

Treasurers (part 2)
School Improvement Plan (SIP)
Membership/Recruitment
Facilities/Capital Improvements Plan (CIP)
Running Effective Meetings

12:15- 12:45 PM	Lunch
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12:45 – 2:00 PM	Third Sessions
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Bylaws
Parent Outreach
Cultural Arts
Operating Budget
Middle School Presidents & Middle School Issues
High School Presidents & High School Issues

DIRECTIONS TO ROCKVILLE HIGH SCHOOL

From the South
495 to exit for Georgia Ave. North
Stay on Georgia Avenue (Route 97)
Left onto Norbeck Road (MD-28)
Left onto Baltimore Road
School will be on the right

From the North
270 South to Shady Grove Rd. (East)
Right onto Route 355 South
Left onto East Gude Dr
Left onto MD-28E (Norbeck Rd.)
Right onto Baltimore Road

QUESTIONS/RSVP

RSVP appreciated but not required by Sept. 2, 2008-Contact: MCCPTA office at (301) 208-0111 or office@mccpta.com

Communications Committee Report

August 6, 2008 (please note, there was no July report, so this covers 2 months)

Patti Twigg, Committee Chair

listservsmod@mccpta.com

1) Website:

Website Coordinators:

Sharon Goodall webmaster@mccpta.com

Lin-Lin Mao webmaster@mccpta.com

- Testimony before the BOE regarding Transportation, June 23, 2008 uploaded to website.
- Dec. 7, 2006 BOD minutes uploaded to website.
- Dec. 6, 2007 BOD minutes uploaded to website.
- Jan. 4, 2007 BOD minutes uploaded to website.
- Feb. 7, 2007 BOD minutes uploaded to website.
- March 1, 2007 BOD minutes uploaded to website.
- April 11, 2007 BOD minutes uploaded to website.
- April 4, 2008 BOD minutes uploaded to website.
- Maryland PTA Regional Training in Montgomery County on August 9th flyer uploaded to website.
- MCCPTA Minutes of the BOD meeting on May 1, 2008 uploaded to website.
- Ineligibility Data for School Year 2008, High Schools, Middle Schools, and RICA uploaded to website.
- Letter to Superintendent Jerry Weast on Commencement Locations uploaded to website.
- Updated homepage.
- Updated calendar.

2) Listservs:

Listsers Moderator:

Patti Twigg listservsmod@mccpta.com

- As of August 6, 2008 membership on the various lists is as follows:

Listserv	# subscribed	Net increase/decrease from last report
MCCPTA_Board	76	-11
MCCPTA_Bulletin	561	+23
MCCPTA_Delegates	428	+4
MCCPTA_Presidents	291	+9
MCCPTA_Treasurers	211	+8

- During the month of June, the process of updating four of the listservs to reflect the transition to the new school year was begun. On July 1, the listservs with restricted membership were purged and posting privileges for the Delegates listserv were updated. The transition continued as new contact info was obtained. There has been a lot of activity with additions and removals on the listservs the last two months.

3) Spotlight:

The MCCPTA website has a corner just for your school or PTA and its accomplishments! "Spotlight" is the place for your school or PTA to shine – for the whole county to see! Don't be shy - you know how great you are, here's your chance to

let everyone else know it too! If you have news and/or achievements from your school or PTA, please notify MCCPTA (via email to office@mccpta.com and/or webmaster@mccpta.com).

MCCPTA Listservs Summary Table

(Created May 24, 2006, last updated March 11, 2008)

<http://www.mccpta.net/listserves.html>

Part I: Listservs with Open Membership

Name of List:	MCCPTA_Delegates	MCCPTA_Bulletin
Who can join:	Anyone (subject to change – determined by DA voting body).	Anyone (subject to change – determined by DA voting body).
How to sign up:	Must request. See subscription sheet for details.	MCCPTA BOD members will be added automatically (once contact info has been received) or can request, all others must request. See subscription sheet for details.
Who can post:	People that may vote at a DA – Delegates, local PTA Pres., members of the MCCPTA BOD.	Moderators – MCCPTA President, Listservs Subcommittee Chair and others as designated by MCCPTA President.
Used for:	New resolutions that will be introduced or voted on at the next DA if online discussion is desired; questions from members of the list; questions from locals; feedback requests that need discussion; discussion of school or education issues of interest to list members; news articles of interest; non-MCCPTA press releases.	Official MCCPTA documents including but not limited to agendas, press releases, draft & approved meeting minutes, summaries of committee meetings, committee reports; announcements of MCCPTA & other meetings, forums, workshops; new or existing resolutions to be voted on at a DA if online discussion is not desired; requests for feedback that go directly to a central collection point & don't need discussion; official MCPS, MSDE, Maryland or National PTA documents or announcements.
Attachments:	no	no
Yearly purge:	no	no
Replies to (default mode):	Entire list	Message poster only
Message overlap:	There is minimal overlap between MCCPTA_Delegates and MCCPTA_Bulletin, but the MCCPTA_Presidents list, MCCPTA_Treasurers list and MCCPTA_Board list will have some overlap with the other lists.	

Legend: Officers – MCCPTA Officers (see bylaws for list), AVP – MCCPTA Area Vice President; CC – MCCPTA Cluster Coordinator; Locals – local PTA/PTSA, i.e. school unit, DA – Delegates Assembly, BOD – MCCPTA Board of Directors.

MCCPTA Listservs Summary Table

(Created May 24, 2006, last updated March 11, 2008)

<http://www.mccpta.net/listserves.html>

Part II: Listservs with Restricted Membership

Name of List:	MCCPTA_Treasurers	MCCPTA_Presidents	MCCPTA_Board
Who can	Treasurers of Locals, MCCPTA	Presidents of Locals, MCCPTA	MCCPTA Board - Officers,

join:	Officers, AVPs, CCs. Also, MCCPTA Listservs and Website Subcommittees Chairs, MCCPTA Office Manager. Presidents of Locals may join only if the Treasurer of the same Local is already on the listerv.	Officers, AVPs, CCs. Also, MCCPTA Listservs and Website Subcommittees Chairs, MCCPTA Office Manager.	AVPs, CCs, MCCPTA Committee Chairs. Also, MCCPTA Listservs and Website Subcommittees Chairs, MCCPTA Office Manager.
How to sign up:	Treasurers will be added automatically (once Blue Book info is received by MCCPTA office) or can request. Other MCCPTA Officers, AVPs & CCs must request.	Presidents will be added automatically (once Blue Book info is received by MCCPTA office) or can request. Other MCCPTA Officers, AVPs & CCs must request.	BOD members will be added automatically (once contact info has been received) or can request.
Who can post:	Moderators – MCCPTA President, MCCPTA Treasurer, Listservs Subcommittee Chair and others as designated by MCCPTA President.	Moderators – MCCPTA President, Listservs Subcommittee Chair and others as designated by MCCPTA President.	Any list member.
Used for:	Direct communication from MCCPTA Treasurer to Treasurers of locals.	Direct communication from MCCPTA President to Presidents of locals.	Discussion of Board matters between meetings.
Attachments:	no	no	yes
Yearly purge:	yes	yes	yes
Replies to (default mode):	Message poster only	Message poster only	Message poster only
Message overlap:	There is minimal overlap between MCCPTA_Delegates and MCCPTA_Bulletin, but the MCCPTA_Presidents list, MCCPTA_Treasurers list and MCCPTA_Board list will have some overlap with the other lists.		

Legend: Officers – MCCPTA Officers (see bylaws for list), AVP – MCCPTA Area Vice President; CC – MCCPTA Cluster Coordinator; Locals – local PTA/PTSA, i.e. school unit, DA – Delegates Assembly, BOD – MCCPTA Board of Directors.

Reflections Committee Update

2008–2009 PTA Reflections Program
GENERAL STUDENT PARTICIPATION RULES
Theme: “Wow!”

Students must adhere to the following general participation rules as well as the rules for their specific arts area.

1. Theme

The theme for the 2008–2009 PTA Reflection Program is “Wow!” Only new pieces of artwork inspired by the theme are acceptable.

2. Student Eligibility through Local PTAs

Students must participate in the Reflections Program through a local PTA/PTSA in good standing. Parent groups not affiliated with the national PTA organization are not eligible to sponsor this program. It is the responsibility of the state and local PTA/PTSA to determine each student's eligibility in the Reflections Program.

A student may develop an entry in or outside of school.

3. Grade Divisions

Students may enter the Reflections Program in the appropriate division for their grade. The divisions are as follows:

- Primary: preschool–grade 2
- Intermediate: grades 3–5
- Middle/Junior: grades 6–8
- Senior: grades 9–12

If students do not fall under specific grade divisions, the national PTA organization suggests that they be grouped as follows:

- Primary: up to age 7
- Intermediate: ages 8–10
- Middle/Junior: ages 11–13
- Senior: ages 14+

It is the responsibility of the local PTA/PTSA to determine the appropriate division if necessary.

4. Arts Areas

Students may submit works in any of the six arts areas:

- Literature
- Musical composition
- Photography
- Visual arts
- Dance choreography
- Film production

The national PTA organization does not limit the number of entries a student may submit. All entries must include an artist statement that describes how the piece relates to the theme.

5. Children with Disabilities

PTA believes that each child with a disability should be provided a free and appropriate public education. Therefore, the Reflections Program at the national level does not have a special division for students with disabilities. The national PTA organization believes it is the right of parents to place their child in the Reflections Program grade division that best reflects the child's developmental age. However, guidelines for state and local Reflections Programs may vary. Check with your state PTA for its guidelines.

6. Deadlines

Each student must submit his or her work by the deadline established by his or her local PTA/PTSA. Each local PTA/PTSA sponsoring the program will set a deadline for entries in adherence with the state, district, and council needs. These entries are judged, and the selected works are forwarded to the next level of judging (council, district, or state). Direct all questions regarding deadlines or rules to your state PTA or state arts chair. The national PTA organization does not have deadlines for local, council, district, or state PTAs.

7. Judging

All national entries are judged on artistic merit, creativity, and interpretation of the theme.

The Reflections Program makes no restriction on content or subject in artwork. Students who are submitting entries need to meet school and/or local and state PTA standards. Judges review entries based upon creativity, artistic merit, and interpretation of the theme.

Each PTA determines its own judges for the program. Under no conditions may parents or students contact the judges to dispute the status of an entry. All decisions of judges are final.

8. Award Recipient Notification

State arts chairs will notify students who receive national recognition. State arts chairs will submit original photography and visual arts pieces to the national PTA organization for the creation of the Reflections Program Gallery on the PTA national website. Any artworks, awards, or certificates returned to the national PTA office due to insufficient or incorrect addresses will be mailed to the appropriate state office.

9. Further Information

Only your state PTA office and state PTA arts chair can provide you with information about your state's Reflections

Program rules and deadlines.

Melissa McDonald, MCCPTA Reflections Chair, melissa.mcdonald@verizon.net

Safety Committee Update

Laurie Halverson talked with Director of Safety, Bob Hellmuth, MCPS Director of Safety and Security on July 2. Here is a summary of our discussion:

Lighting: They put outdoor lighting in schools on a case-by-case basis. Neighbors raise concerns about lights shining in their house. There is data that shows that lighting at schools can decrease activity/theft/crime incidents.

CCTV (Closed Circuit Television) Systems will be replaced in all High Schools and added to all Middle Schools over a six year period.

Visitor Management Systems will be in all schools and **visitor access systems in all elementary schools** (six year phase-in): These systems will have a scanner for staff/students/parents upon entry of the school building. Registered sex offenders will be in the data base as well as child custody information (entered in by each school on a local level). Vendors will be subject to scan also and will be subject to sex offender data base also-they will have a badge that will be printed out and it will have an expiration date. Elementary Schools will have a camera (on back or side door) and strike release and intercom system. Clemente Middle school is a pilot school for the visitor management system.

Sex Offender registry: MCPS is updated every day with new data and they keep in touch with schools on a daily basis.

Website: The MCPS Safety Department's website is out of date and they don't have a website expert on their staff currently to update it.

Portables: MCPS is moving portables that are too old (For example, some MCPS owned 1986 portables were moved this summer to Rocky Hill Middle School.) The committee will discuss advocacy needs for better quality portables, better maintenance of portables, better HVAC systems in portables and rules on moving portables.

Alcohol/ Drug Abuse: Laurie Halverson met with Meg Baker of "Drawing the Line on Underage Alcohol Use." This is a nonprofit organization that helps with education of underage drinking/drug abuse and provides activities to support their efforts. Laurie will attend quarterly meetings as a partner/MCCPTA representative in their efforts. One service they provide is to conduct random surveys in schools on alcohol and drug abuse. Recent results show that usage in our county is below the state and U.S. usage.

We will have our first committee meeting in September at Carver, time and date will be announced in late August.

Special Education Committee Update

The MCCPTA Special Education Committee is pleased to announce the following events:

Monday, October 6, 2008 – Annual Kickoff Meeting for Special Education Chairs

Members from numerous special education advocacy groups will present information about their organizations. Come hear how advocates from around the county provide support for various special needs populations.

Monday, December 1, 2008 – Rich Weinfeld, Educational Consultant will discuss various topics including: Best Practice For Identifying and Educating Students Who Are Simultaneously Gifted/Talented and Learning Disabled (GT/LD), Best Practices in Working With Students with Attention Deficits (ADD/ADHD), and Mentoring Programs.

Monday, February 2, 2008 – Rick Lavoie Video, "Last One Picked, First One Picked On" film event and discussion. Synopsis: Every child has experienced embarrassment or rejection in social situations. But kids with learning disabilities are often isolated and rejected, and sometimes have a particularly hard time making and keeping friends. Host Richard

Lavoie, a nationally-known expert on learning disabilities, explains why this happens - and what parents or teachers can do to help children improve their social skills.

All meetings will begin at 7:30 p.m. in the Carver Educational Services Center (CESC) Cafeteria, 850 Hungerford Drive, Rockville.

Contact Information:

Jeanne Taylor
MCCPTA Special Needs Chair
301-879-9539
frtjmt@aol.com

Partner with PTA to Promote Healthy Lifestyles

PTA Healthy Lifestyles is helping communities make health and wellness a priority throughout the month of November. Be part of the program. Partner with a local PTA on a November event promoting regular exercise, good nutrition, or other healthy habits. Then, encourage the local unit to apply for a PTA Healthy Lifestyles Award of up to \$1,000 to support those plans. In 2007, hundreds of PTAs across the country held health fairs; encouraged students to walk or ride their bikes to school; introduced families to new, nutritious foods; and launched ongoing fitness programs to celebrate Healthy Lifestyles. There were recipe contests, cooking demonstrations, parent education nights, walkathons, yoga classes, and more. For their outstanding commitment to promoting health and wellness in their communities, 40 PTAs received PTA Healthy Lifestyles Awards. This year's award applications are due Friday, September 5, 2008. Please note that only local PTAs in good standing may apply, but your partnership can make all the difference.

For more information, go to www.pta.org/healthylifestyles.

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

**MCCPTA
2096 Gaither Road
Suite 204
Rockville, MD 20850**

PONY MAIL

August 2008

MCCPTA Calendar 2008-2009

**Unless otherwise specified all meetings take place at the
Carver Educational Services Center (850 Hungerford Drive, Rockville, MD 20850).**

August	16	MCPS Back to School Fair 10am-3pm
September	4	Board of Directors Meeting 7:30pm-10pm
	6	MCCPTA Fall Training – Rockville High School 9am-2pm
	8	Grading and Reporting committee Meeting 7pm-9pm
	18	BOE Community Forum - Operating Budget – Watkins Mill HS 7pm-9:30 pm
	24	Committee Fair 7-7:30pm Delegates Assembly in Auditorium 7:30pm-10pm
October	1	Cultural Arts Showcase 9am-2: 30pm
	2	Cultural Arts Showcase 9am-2: 30pm Board of Directors Meeting 7:30pm-10pm
	6	Cultural Arts Showcase 9am- 2:30pm Grading and Reporting Committee Meeting 7pm-9pm Special Education Committee meeting 7pm
	7	Cultural Arts Showcase 9am-2:30pm
	15	MCPS BOE Boundary Recommendations Released
	16	BOE Community Forum - Operating Budget – Albert Einstein HS 7pm-9: 30 pm
	28	Delegates Assembly 7:30pm-10pm
	29	MCPS CIP Released MCPS BOE meets with MCCPTA 7pm

