

The resolution below was approved at the April 28, 2009, MCCPTA Delegates Assembly. This adopted resolution will be added to the MCCPTA website and posted to the Bulletin Listserv.

Kay Romero
MCCPTA President

**MCCPTA Resolution
on Indoor Air Quality at MCPS Schools**

***WHEREAS** The National PTA has urged local units to work with school administrators and boards of education to ensure that school heating, ventilation, and air conditioning operation and maintenance plans comply with the highest current standards supplied by accepted experts.*

***WHEREAS** Children may be especially susceptible to air pollution because the same concentration of pollutants will result in a higher body burden in children than adults because children breathe a greater volume of air relative to their body weight.*

***WHEREAS** Portables are a particular concern because most are stand alone units that are subject to unique challenges. They are vulnerable to weather conditions, water infiltration, security issues, pest infestation, and building pressurization problems that compromise the safety and health of our children.*

***WHEREAS** The poor quality of existing MCPS portables in combination with the limited staff resources at MCPS in completing proactive maintenance goals result in continuous problems with water infiltration, mold growth, pest infestation, and CO2 levels higher than the recommended level (1000 ppm.)*

***BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED** that MCCPTA requests the following actions be taken by MCPS to move forward in efforts toward providing a safe and healthy environment for our children, staff and administrators. These actions include but are not limited to:*

- 1. A two-year carpet removal plan for portables beginning this summer, replacing with tile or other mold resistant material. (Carpets remaining are likely to be infested with mites and may contain mold.)*
- 2. For any portable HVACs with a history of being serviced for moisture issues, replacement of any fiberglass lining with Rubberflex or other insulation that can be cleaned. (Some portables include HVACs with fiberglass lining that cannot be cleaned properly when mold spores attach.)*
- 3. Annual "walk-through" inspections of all school buildings and portables, as recommended by EPAs "Tools for Schools Program."*
- 4. HVAC staff and/or other staff to help Indoor Air Quality meet demands and increase the number of Building Maintenance Plans (BMPs).*
- 5. Disclosure to parents whenever there is an Indoor Air Quality Complaint at their school (in buildings or in portables.) MCPS and school communities need to collaborate and communicate with each other on air quality concerns.*
- 6. Maintenance logs must be easily accessible for all parents, staff and administrators.*

***BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED** that the Board of Education create a policy on MCPS' commitment to "air quality" in all classrooms with measurable performance objectives and recognize "air quality" as a health concern for all children.*