

Safety Committee Update - 9/30/07

A new School Safety Report is under development by MCPS.

Responding to a requirement by the County Council Office of Legislative Oversight, MCPS has been developing a template to provide information about school safety for each school community. Office of School Performance Director presented a sample report to the Safety Committee meeting held September 25. The current plan is to develop a one-page summary of statistics about suspensions, serious incident reports, safety-related climate survey responses, and available programs and resources for each school in MCPS. The format is modeled after *Schools at a Glance*. Some safety committee members expressed reservations about including demographic breakdowns of incidents on the report. But the committee otherwise felt that parents will appreciate having access to this information on a school-by-school basis. MCPS has been gathering input from “stakeholder groups,” include various parent groups. They intend to bring it to the BOE in early November. We will keep you informed as the process continues. They are targeting summer of 2008 for the publication of the first report. The report will cover statistics from the immediately preceding year.

We are working with the operating budget committee on an initiative to increase the number of crossing guards and Educational Facilities Officers. These positions are funded and distributed by the Montgomery County Police Dept. Each HS has an educational facilities officer, and 2 middle schools, Argyle and Roberto Clemente also have one each. The middle schools are selected based on the number of incident reports in and around the schools. Although there are 32 funded positions, only 28 of them are currently filled. Because EFOs are commissioned police officers, these positions compete with patrol positions from the pool of officers. The operating budget chair, John Hall, sent out a request to cluster coordinators to let us know of needs in your clusters for more EFOs and crossing guards. Response has been very light so far. Please let us know your needs.

We are working with April on the October and November delegates’ assembly programs on gang awareness and bus safety respectively. We will also probably be submitting an amendment to the proposed MCCPTA operating budget priorities calling from more emphasis on facilities repair and indoor air quality.

As we reach the thick of homecoming season, please remind parents to be vigilante about drug and alcohol use. Check the MCCPTA website, under the Safety Committee links, for several resources on this subject.