

May 2009

MCCPTA Special Education Committee Report

Chair: Jeanne Taylor

The annual Special Education Recognition ceremony has been canceled due to the closing of Rockville high school.

An e-mail regarding the uncertainty of the situation was sent on Friday, May 3 and Saturday, May 4 to the award recipients and others who had RSVP'd. The e-mail contained Governor O'Malley's press release and directed people to check the MCPS web site for updates about the closing of the school.

On Sunday, May 3 e-mails were sent out on the MCCPTA Bulletin and other listserves, announcing the ceremony cancellation and the possibility of rescheduling, as time allows.

On Monday, May 4 Kristi Welter is going to place signs on the doors of Rockville HS, just in case anyone shows up.

Other news...

Janice Edwing, Special Education Chair for Darnestown ES, continues to represent our committee on the GRIT Committee.

The closing of the Secondary Learning Centers continues to be an issue for many people. Special Education advocates have been in close contact with BOE members regarding concerns over the issues documented in the one-year report.

Two Reports from Janice Edwing

MCCPTA Special Education Grading and Reporting Implementation Team Representative

Grading and Reporting Implementation Team

Meeting Date: February 19, 2009

Key Ideas to Pass onto Stakeholders/Things I Need to Do

- Elementary OARS for 2009-2010 will be maintained in the 24 elementary schools implementing standards-based Grading and Reporting and extended to include Grades 1–5. The two intermediate schools whose primary schools are implementing standards-based Grading and Reporting will be added.
- In the 26 ES OARS schools, training is proposed on OARS for administrators, staff development teachers, reading specialists, and math content coaches, and additional training is proposed for Grades 4 & 5 in the 26 schools. Technology training will occur close to the opening of school.
- The 3-week rule on posting secondary grades into Pinnacle is intended to ensure the availability of up-to-date student academic information and timely communication about student progress

through Edline. The rule is available at <http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/departments/oars/pdf/GuidelinesforOARSUse.pdf>

- GRIT discussed high school semester grade calculation. GRIT members' feedback will be compiled and reported at the March meeting.
- ACTION: Representatives are asked to share current documents with their constituents and gather commendations and considerations on the effect of implementing Policy IKA, *Grading and Reporting*, on special populations. This information will inform GRIT's consideration of any recommended improvements in implementation. Current documents, including Policy IKA and Regulation IKA-RA, are available on the MCPS website for grading and reporting: <http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/info/grading/>. Send the completed capture sheet (attached to this message) by March 13, 2009, to Betsy_Brown@mcpsmd.org and Virginia_Lockhart@mcpsmd.org. Thank you!

Grading and Reporting Advisory Committee

Date: April 16, 2009

Key Ideas to Pass onto Stakeholders/Things I Need to Do

Updates

- No compelling pattern emerged from the February discussion of high school semester grade calculation. The compiled information will be submitted to the associate superintendent.
- GRIT will recommend to the standards-based report card work group that they consider methods for providing information to parents and staff, including developing a general document.
- More input will be gathered on the 3-week rule for posting grades in Pinnacle (middle and high school).

Members began discussion of monitoring implementation of grading and reporting. We will continue this topic at the next meeting.

A process was recommended for group members to bring items to the group as a regular part of each meeting. The process will be implemented at the next meeting.