

Dear Delegates and Grading and Reporting Committee Members:

The Grading and Reporting Implementation Team (GRIT) is a multi-stakeholder group which includes representatives from MCPS, teachers and parents who discuss and suggest methods for implementing grading and reporting procedures within the school system. At the GRIT meeting held last Thursday, Betsy Brown, MCPS Director of Curriculum and Instruction, introduced a four-page draft of language designed to address the issue of altering methods for calculation of final grades. We were not permitted to retain the draft, but in a nutshell, it proposed the following:

- * Weighting each of the applicable quarters at 37½ % and the final exam at 25 % for all underclassmen and first semester seniors
- * Weighting each of the applicable quarters at 50 % (with no final exam) for underclassmen and second semester seniors and
- * Deriving final grades from the 0 to 100 point grade value by weighting the first and second quarter numerical grade values together with the weighted final exam grade, if given.

This proposal is similar to the resolution put forward by the Grading and Reporting Committee at the March Delegates Assembly, later deferred at the April Delegates Assembly. Since some people voiced concerns about the impact of these changes, we made sure to convey those concerns to the other GRIT members. Specifically, we noted that even though there were some instances where students might have a chance to better their final grades by doing well on the final, there were instances where students would need to do better on their final exams to retain their grade earned before the final than they do under the current system. Despite those concerns, a majority of the GRIT members felt that the proposed changes would more accurately reflect student performance.

Betsy said that after obtaining input from teachers and principals, a modified version of the proposal would be sent to MCPS leadership at some point and if they choose to endorse the change, it may take affect as early as the 2007-2008 school year.

In other news, Betsy told us after the meeting that work on Regulation IKA-RA for the Grading and Reporting policy will not begin in earnest until the fall. We reiterated MCCPTA's interest in parent inclusion in the work group.

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