

**Health and Safety Committee Report  
March 2010**

**Chair: Laurie Halverson**

**Resolution on the Definition of “Serious Incident” and the School Safety and Security at a Glance Report Passed**

The following Resolution passed at the MCCPTA Delegates meeting on February 23:

**Resolution to Propose Changes to the definition of “Serious Incidents” in Regulation COB-RA**

WHEREAS on November 13, 2007, the Board of Education adopted Resolution #548-07 to support the district’s goal of improving school safety and security. This resolution provided for useful data on “serious incidents,” suspensions, and other pertinent school data.

WHEREAS MCPS Regulation COB-RA defines “serious incidents” for purposes of reporting to an appropriate MCPS office. A compilation of “serious incidents” is the data that is provided for each school in the School Safety and Security at a Glance publication.

WHEREAS the Safe Schools Reporting Act of 2005 requires MCPS to report to the Maryland State Department of Education incidents of harassment and bullying as defined by a new state mandated policy.

WHEREAS most incidents of harassment and bullying are not shown in the School Safety and Security at a Glance report unless an incident qualifies as a “serious incident” under Regulation COB-RA. This does not reflect an accurate picture of bullying and harassment incidents in a school, nor does it indicate the bullying and harassment incidents that are reported to the Maryland State Department of Education.

BE IT RESOLVED that MCCPTA requests that MCPS expand its definition of “serious incident” under COB-RA and modify the School Safety and Security at a Glance Report to include all incidents of bullying and harassment as defined by Policy JHF.

BE IT ALSO RESOLVED that MCCPTA requests that data on the following statement be added to the School Safety and Security at a Glance Report: “In this school, students bullying other students is a problem.” This statement is currently reflected in the Student Survey of the School Environment but is not shown with the other two safety related questions in the School Safety and Security at a Glance” Report.

-----

Laurie Halverson, Kay Romero and Emily Sudbrink will meet with Frank Stetson, Acting Director of the Office of School Performance, Stephen Zagami, Director of Student Services, and Bob Hellmuth, Director of Safety and Security on March 3 to discuss the Resolution and explain our members’ concerns about the School Safety and Security at a Glance Report and the need for an improved and more accurate reflection of incident activity in our schools.

**Elementary School Front Door Vestibules**

At our February Safety meeting, we discussed front door vestibules that are now standard for elementary school modernizations. These vestibules have a double set of doors. The second set of doors is locked except at school opening and closing time. When visitors enter the school, they can open the first set of doors, but must enter through the school office and sign in before entering the school. Jen Pories, Wootton Cluster Coordinator, has suggested that MCCPTA could advocate for MCPS to include vestibules for all elementary school additions as well. The added safety for minimal cost might be worth looking into, so we will pursue this idea with Steve Augustino, the MCCPTA CIP Chair and the MCCPTA Board. We would like to hear any opinions, for or against this idea.

**Next Health/ Safety Meeting -Training on PTA Promotion of New Anti Bully Policy**

Our next Health/ Safety Committee meeting will be Monday, March 22 at 7:00 p.m. at Carver, 850 Hungerford Dr. in Rockville in room 223. In anticipation of the new anti-bully policy being implemented by this date, we will have a training session on what PTAs can do to work in partnership with your school to promote the new policy. All PTA members are welcome!