

*Proposed*  
Work Plan for MCCPTA 2006-2007

**Committee:** Safety

**Chair:** Pamela Moomau

**Members:** Dale Ryan; Charles Wilkes, Carol Lovelace, Suzanne Weiss, Susan Beckwith, Donna Pfeiffer, Andrea Bernado, Jud Ashman

**Vision:** A safe and secure environment allows students to focus on their goals of learning. It is the duty of the parent and school adult communities to work together to make schools safe havens for students.

**Goals:** Assist students and parents in achieving a continually safe environment in all school related activities.

- 1) Assist in ensuring student safety in all school-related activities including transportation, after school activities, and the school day
- 2) Identify methods of reducing security threats posed by undesirable behaviors, ranging from bullying to substance abuse and gang membership, and assist with education, programs or changes.
- 3) Ensure continuing focus on physical safety of school facilities, including testing for and removing environmental hazards such as lead and mold; fire and building code compliance safety, hazardous materials safety, safe occupied construction standards and adequately controlled building access.
- 4) Encourage development and implementation of an MCPS/MCCPTA strategy for increasing protection of students from sex offenders.
- 5) Identify operational and physical enhancements that can be used to promote pedestrian safety around schools; increase parental and student awareness of pedestrian and traffic safety issues.
- 6) Improve timely and meaningful feedback in school-related safety and security areas.
- 7) Clarify roles of parents, students, and their organizations in emergency preparedness; enhance home/school communication on this issue; enlist parent resources to assist school system with emergency preparedness plans.

**Action Steps** to include:

1. General activities

- a. Work with MCPS to continually identify and resolve any safety and security issues that may be facing students. Relevant MCPS staff include Directors of School Performance, Security, Transportation, and Facilities.
- b. Encourage local PTA's to focus on safety issues and to consider co-sponsoring community forums on safety issues in their areas.
- c. Participate on Montgomery County School Health Council.

2. Activities related to addressing risky student behaviors

- a. Participate on the MCPS Safety and Security Task Force, providing input on a range of discipline and security policies.
- b. Work with MCPS and parents on improving monitoring of building access and improving safe check-in procedures.
- c. Work with MCPS Transportation and Security to improve safety and communication before and after the school day.
- d. Explore with MCPS personnel ways Educational Facilities Officers can assist in reducing student security threats.
- e. Continue working on parental, student and school awareness of bullying hazards and solutions.
- f. Work with groups such as Montgomery County Drawing the Line to promote prevention of teen drinking

3. Activities related to building safety

- a. Participate on MCPS Indoor Air Quality Steering Committee.
- b. Work with MCPS and other officials to encourage a timely and appropriate response to the problem of lead in school drinking water.
- c. Work with MCPS on developing effective and feasible solutions to other environmental hazards within MCPS facilities, such as mold.
- d. Keep PTAs informed about status of various MCPS initiatives to improve fire and building safety.
- e. Work with MCPS on determining best way to enhance awareness by school site personnel (primarily principals) of site maintenance issues.
- f. Monitor school budget process for adequate resources devoted to operational safety of school facilities. In particular, gather support for increased resources for MCPS environmental safety units.

4. Activities relating to protection from sex offenders

- a. Work with MCPS officials on screening and enforcement policy with respect to keeping convicted sex offenders away from occupied schools, including participating in the development of the state-mandated development of a BOE policy with respect to contractor screening of employees.
- b. Work with MCPS on implementing appropriate educational programs within schools to enable students to protect themselves against sex offenders.
- c. Disseminate information to parents about protecting their kids.

5. Activities relating to pedestrian and traffic safety

- a. Encourage local PTAs to work with school administration to develop and monitor pedestrian safety plans for their schools.
- b. Monitor pilot uniform school zone rules in Rockville, and investigate advocacy for similar county- or statewide program.
- c. Assist local PTAs that have identified particular problems, or possible solutions, in identifying and implementing solutions.
- d. Work with Division of Construction to make pedestrian safety an explicit criterion for new construction and safe access plans.
- e. Work with MCPS on improving education regarding driver safety.

6. Activities relating to improved communication between parents and school

- a. Continue to provide feedback to MCPS officials (office of school performance, security, and transportation) on communications between schools and parents.
- b. Educate local PTAs on their roles in ensuring adequate communication.

7. Activities relating to emergency preparedness

- a. Keep PTAs informed of emergency preparedness protocols developed by MCPS, including possible program presentations at County and cluster levels.
- b. Work with MCPS safety officials to identify ways parents and PTAs can assist in emergency preparedness.
- c. Work with MCPS officials on planning for special challenges presented by portable classrooms.

**Expenses**

We preliminarily request \$300 for safety-related programming in local areas and production of educational materials.