

## MCCPTA Special Education Committee Work Plan 2007-08

### MCCPTA Special Education Committee Members and Contact Information

Diane Dickson  
301-933-3199 (h)  
[rvdianedickson@yahoo.com](mailto:rvdianedickson@yahoo.com)

Jennifer Zaranis-Chair  
301-253-3638 (h)  
301-503-4087 (c)  
[jennifer.zaranis@verizon.net](mailto:jennifer.zaranis@verizon.net)

Florence Fultz  
301-585-1965 (h)  
202-663-2446 (w)  
[vogelsang@starpower.net](mailto:vogelsang@starpower.net)

Valerie Shadwick  
240-686-2021 (h)  
240-688-6112 (c)  
[Valshad@comcast.net](mailto:Valshad@comcast.net)

Reda Sheinberg  
301-384-2960 (h)  
301-385-5889 (c)  
[rjsheinberg@yahoo.com](mailto:rjsheinberg@yahoo.com)

Jeanne Taylor  
301-879-9539 (h)  
[FRTJMT@aol.com](mailto:FRTJMT@aol.com)

Tina Velazquez  
301-774-8269 (h)  
[trvelazquez@yahoo.com](mailto:trvelazquez@yahoo.com)

Teresa Jones  
301-320-5993 (h)  
301-435-2996 (w)  
[tjones983@md.northwestern.edu](mailto:tjones983@md.northwestern.edu)

Kay Romero  
301-946-2190 (h)  
240-498-6594 ©  
[Kay2898@aol.com](mailto:Kay2898@aol.com)

Kristi Welter  
301-570-5458  
[krazykristik@aol.com](mailto:krazykristik@aol.com)

#### **Committee Members:**

Chairpersons of local PTA Special Education Committees in every school in Montgomery County

#### **Other Contributors:**

Handbook development/coordination  
MCPS Special Education Department  
MCPS Family and Community Partnership

#### **Vision**

*How does the work of your committee support the objects and mission of PTA and the focus of MCCPTA?*

We support and speak on behalf of children with disabilities and their families. When the needs and desired outcomes of MCPS students are discussed at the local, county, state and national level, we raise an awareness of disability issues in the expectation that children with special education needs will be considered in discussions and decisions as a matter of course. Our efforts will help parents and schools better meet the specific needs of children with disabilities, support them appropriately, and integrate them into their school communities seamlessly and respectfully. We strive to give a continued voice to children with disabilities as well as continued support for their families.

## **Goals**

*Give a summary statement of your committee's goals for this year. Consider how you will identify attainment.*

We are a resource for parents, caregivers, teachers, support staff and community leaders to advocate for children within the MCPS Special Education School system and abroad. We hope to increase awareness of and sensitivity to the needs of children with disabilities within our schools and communities across the range of disabilities. We provide information and education to parents and school communities through the Special Education Chairpersons of the local PTA organization. We want everyone involved in the education of Montgomery County's children to understand that our most vulnerable students, those with special needs, also require and deserve a world class education. They too deserve the expertise of competent, trained professionals who have high expectations for their students' achievements.

This year we will pay special attention to recruiting more members for our committee by seeking individuals from our local unit committees to step up and become leader advocates for special education issues and concerns. We will work with other community organizations on issues affecting the special education community. We will also be striving to increase attendance at our on-going programs. Finally, we will work with PTA/PTSA Presidents and principals to ensure that every school has a special education committee chairperson so that all schools will have the benefit of information and support for their special education issues.

## **Action Steps**

*What does your committee plan to do to achieve these goals? Include plans for meetings, mailings, etc., interaction with other MCCPTA committees, MCPS staff you may work with and in what capacity, other county, state or federal agencies, organizations you may contact as part of your action plan.*

As each school year ends, our committee starts recruiting Special Education Chairpersons from every school in the county for the following September. We will continue to utilize our group's listserve for disseminating communications and information to PTA Special Education Chairs to facilitate our continued outreach and support for children who receive special education services and their families. We will also seek to form more alliances with the special education community at-large by attending their events, seminars and workshops so that we can more fully serve the needs of our parent community

A major informational handbook is assembled which includes ideas of how to be an effective chairperson, MCPS organizational charts and descriptions, MCPS and countywide resources, etc. Each school now has a copy of this handbook as a resource for his or her school. The handbooks are updated in the fall for current school year information. Individual members of the MCCPTA Special Education Committee serve on numerous committees/workgroups at various levels either to stay current on issues in Special Education or to serve in an advisory capacity. This includes, but is not limited to participation on individual school SIP committees, Special Education Staffing Plan Committee, Shared Accountability Advisory Group, Special Education Advisory Committee, MCPS and state curriculum and more.

In addition we meet with members of the Board of Education, MCPS, and County Government Departments. We are responsive in various arenas to offer support to Special Education Committees at local schools. Also, we will work closely with other committees within MCCPTA to support the needs of all children. Throughout the school year the committee conducts five informational meetings on a variety of topics either of a time sensitive nature or of general interest.

These meetings are geared toward chairpersons from local PTA Special Education Committees throughout the county, but are of interest to and are open to everyone.

**Please Note: All of the training meetings are held from 7:30- 9:00 p.m. at 850 Hungerford Drive, Rockville, Maryland 20850 (Room Location will be Cafeteria)**

**Wed, October 10, 2007 – Annual Kick Off Meeting and Orientation Session**

PTA Special Education Chairs will have an opportunity to meet MCPS Special Education staff and learn about their role as a PTA Special Education Chair for their respective school(s). For more information or to register contact Jennifer Zaranis at [specialkids@verizon.net](mailto:specialkids@verizon.net)

**Wed, Nov 14, 2007 – Panel Discussion of Home School Partnership & Communication.**

This session will focus on improving the home-school partnership. Effective communication among teachers, school administration, students and parents is critical for student success. Come listen to what the "experts" have to say on this topic. For more information or to register please contact Teresa Jones at [tjones983@md.northwestern.edu](mailto:tjones983@md.northwestern.edu)

**Wed, Jan 9, 2008 - Transitioning from School to Employment.**

This meeting will focus on preparing young adults with disabilities for careers. For more information or to register contact Reda Sheinberg at [rjsheinberg@yahoo.com](mailto:rjsheinberg@yahoo.com)

**Wed, Feb 6, 2008 - Reserved for Secondary Learning Center Update.**

**Wed, Mar 12, 2008 – Rick Lavoie Video Showing and Discussion, "It's So Much Work to be Your Friend: Helping the Learning Disabled Child Find Social Success".**

Join us as we learn practical strategies to help children navigate the social situations they face in school, home, and community.

**Monday, May 5, 2008 at Rockville HS-MCCPTA Special Education Committee Recognition Award Ceremony**

**Expenses**

Include costs of mailings, copying, supplies, awards, food for award ceremony, etc.

There are costs associated with supplies for meetings, mailings to committee chairpersons, and refreshments for the Kick Off meeting and subsequent meetings. A majority of the committee's expenses are associated with the end of the year MCCPTA Special Education Recognition Ceremony. **We estimate a budget of \$ 1400 will cover all of our costs.**