

Montgomery County Council of Parent-Teacher Associations

**MCCPTA**

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**DATE:** November 22, 2021

**TO:** Mr. Marc Elrich, County Executive, Montgomery County  
Mr. Tom Hucker, President, Montgomery County Council  
Ms. Brenda Wolff, President, Montgomery County Board of Education  
Dr. Monifa McKnight, Interim Superintendent, MCPS

**FROM:** Cynthia Simonson, President, Montgomery County Council of PTAs

**SUBJECT:** Montgomery County Public Schools -- Safety and Security

On behalf of our advocacy organization, we are seeking an update from Montgomery County and MCPS with respect to [Resolution on School Resource Officers and School Safety and Security](#), adopted on April 7, 2021, by the full membership of the Montgomery County Council of PTAs (MCCPTA). Specifically, we have questions regarding the following:

1. A new [Memorandum of Understanding](#) was signed August 30, 2021, by local law enforcement and MCPS. We would like to understand what has changed in the MOU. Specifically, we would like an explanation of:
  - The role and training of the Community Engagement Officer (CEO) and how it is the same or different from the School Resource Officer (SRO) role,
  - How protocols with regard to school security and law enforcement calls for services have changed, if at all,
  - Where the responsibilities and services of the SRO have shifted, and
  - How Montgomery County is providing “adequate law enforcement” to MCPS schools under the Maryland Safe to Learn Act of 2018?
2. What resources MCPS and Montgomery County have invested in “curricular, staff development and programmatic focus on trauma-informed, resilience-oriented, and culturally affirming social emotional learning, mental health and well-being, restorative practices, conflict resolution, and early threat assessments and crisis response?” We would like to understand how much has been invested in these resources, when they have been/will be selected, where they are being implemented, who is responsible for selection and implementation of each resource, the timeline for implementation, and the criteria for evaluating the effectiveness of the programs.

3. How MCPS and Montgomery County are addressing the need for:
  - Clear policies and procedures regarding the use of school-based law enforcement,
  - Stronger, ongoing data collection and publication of both internal and independent monitoring (including but not limited to annual reviews),
  - Accountability surrounding school-initiated discipline and interventions, with due regard to MCPS' commitment to the elimination of racial bias and discrimination, and the promotion of equity, inclusion and acceptance for all, and
  - Proactive steps to ensure gun violence prevention and other forms of weapon violence prevention including, but not limited to, those items referenced in the [2019 MCCPTA Resolution on Gun Violence Preention and School Safety?](#)
  
4. How has MCPS and MCPD addressed previously acknowledged gaps related to student discipline and school-based law enforcement data being comprehensively and systematically tracked? Please provide an update on what data (both school-level and County-level) is available to track school security incidents, type of incident, discipline, interventions, use of restorative practices, outcomes, etc. What trends have emerged (backed by data, not anecdote)?
  
5. How has MCPS engaged with students, parents, staff and community stakeholders to solicit input on (a) ways to enhance holistic safety and security in and around schools, and meet the ongoing social and emotional needs of students, without the bias and discrimination against black and brown students and students with disabilities?

We believe that time is of the essence, and respectfully request a meeting to be scheduled as a matter of urgency to address the above items. I look forward to working with you to coordinate a mutually agreeable date and time.

cc: Mr. Gabe Albornoz, County Council  
Mr. Andrew Friedson, County Council  
Mr. Evan Glass, County Council  
Mr. Will Jawando, County Council  
Mr. Sidney Katz, County Council  
Ms. Nancy Navarro, County Council  
Mr. Craig Rice, County Council  
Mr. Hans Riemer, County Council  
Ms. Karla Silvestre, BOE  
Ms. Judy Docca, BOE  
Ms. Shebra Evans, BOE  
Ms. Rebecca Smondrowski, BOE  
Ms. Lynne Harris, BOE  
Ms. Hana O'Looney, BOE