

There was a discussion on the impact of the crisis on athletic games. Staff was investigating alternatives to fulfill the schedules and qualify for the playoffs. There was a concern voiced about seniors and applications for college.

Overall, Code Blue was successful in protecting children and the school system was commended for its actions. Staff helped children feel secure and communicated effectively with parents, parents had been contacted to help, and letters and other communications had been made available to the community.

PARENT INVOLVEMENT

MCCPTA thought parents should be involved in dialogues concerning (1) issues of curriculum, (2) expulsion/suspension and alternatives, (3) outreach programs in "parentese" not educational jargon, (4) special education programs in the community, (5) an MCPS tutorial on how to access the system, and (6) how to help parents to help their children.

The Board pointed out that Policy ABC, Parental Involvement, will be finalized by the Board on October 28, 2002. The policy addresses two-way communication and how MCPS structures outreach to be consistent throughout the system in communicating with parents. Parental involvement is essential to a strong academic performance by students. The *Aim High* brochure is a guide on how to access the system. The principal is key in helping parents understand how to help their children and how to access the system.

ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE

MCCPTA acknowledged that MCPS has done a good job of writing the new curriculum and results have been excellent. There are issues to be addressed regarding gifted and talented, special education, ESOL, and the implementation of curriculum. There needs to be a plan for staff development and the transition to the new curriculum.

Board members replied that staff training is a priority. All staff have been trained on the early childhood initiative. Consistency of teaching and grading is critical throughout the system, and the new grading and reporting policy will address most of those concerns. The new policy will require grades to be based on academic indicators and course outcomes.

CIP/TESTIMONY

MCCPTA thought the time was right to change the format for the facilities hearings. It suggested one night of testimony and one night of dialogue on facilities needs and funding issues.

Board members replied that a dialogue should include other agencies such as the County Council and Park and Planning Commission. The state and county face a funding deficit, and all agencies must work together for what is best for children.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:50 p.m.

PRESIDENT

SECRETARY

JDW:gr