

Embracing Change Through Partnerships

NAACP Parents' Council Monthly Newsletter

At Last Month's Meeting...

The November 19th meeting proved to be one of our most powerful yet. The purpose of this meeting was two-fold. The first presentation featured speakers on the topic of "The Path to a Career." Ms. Karen Wilson, Edison HS, and Ms. Marcia Johnson, Blair HS discussed the college application process as well as careers and how to prepare for those careers. The school representatives from all levels appreciated this discussion and were surprised at some of the statistics related to careers and today's work force. We appreciated the wealth of information and experience these two outstanding MCPS staff members shared.

Our second presentation featured Dr. Frank Stetson, Chief School Performance Officer, and all of the MCPS Community Superintendents.

Dr. Donna Hollingshead
Dr. LaVerne Kimball
Dr. Darryl Williams
Ms. Beth Schiavino-Narvaez
Ms. Bronda Mills
Dr. Christopher Garran

We opened this portion of the meeting with a panel discussion featuring Dr. Stetson and the Community Superintendents. The Community Superintendents were asked a bit about their background and experiences. It was inspiring to hear their stories and the paths chosen in support of our children and schools.

Then we moved into individual Cluster Time. Cluster time is held at many of our monthly meetings. However, the school representatives were honored to have these special guests become part of our smaller group cluster discussions. The Community Superintendents spent time listening to concerns, answering questions, and sharing best practices in their individual clusters. Many clusters had pre-planned topics to discuss with their Community Superintendents and appreciated the time to get to know each other and share information to benefit their schools.

This meeting was a double session so the December monthly meeting was canceled. The Parents' Council looks forward to more opportunities such as this to partner with other key figures in MCPS as we "Embrace Change Through our Partnerships."



Our next meeting will take place on

Saturday, Jan. 21, 2012

"Mastering the Test"

Discussions on how students can score higher on MSA, ACT, SAT and other standardized tests.

We will also spend some time helping school representatives with planning a Black History Month event. Happy New Year!



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MCPS Schools Represented at Last Month's Meeting!

Albert Einstein HS
Bannockburn ES
Bel Pre ES
Bells Mill ES
Belmont ES
Benjamin Banneker MS
Bethesda ES
Bethesda-Chevy Chase HS
Blake HS
Briggs Chaney MS
Brooke Grove ES
Cabin John MS
Clearspring ES
College Gardens
Dufief ES
Farquhar MS
Fields Road ES
Fox Chapel ES
Georgian Forest ES
Greencastle ES
Herbert Hoover MS
Highland View ES
Kensington Parkwood ES
Kingsview MS
Loiederman MS
Meadow Hall ES
Monocacy ES
Montgomery Blair HS
North Bethesda MS
North Chevy Chase ES
Northwest HS
Northwood HS

Olney ES
Parkland Magnet MS
Poolesville ES
Poolesville HS
Pyle MS
Richard Montgomery HS
Redland MS
Ridgeview MS
Ritchie Park ES
Roberto Clemente MS
Ronald McNair ES
Rosa M. Parks MS
Sally K. Ride ES
Seneca Valley HS
Sherwood ES
Sherwood HS
Silver Spring Intl MS
Sligo Creek ES
Somerset ES
Springbrook HS
Stonegate ES
Strathmore ES
Takoma PK MS
Thomas Wootton HS
Walter Johnson HS
Westbrook ES
Westland MS
Wheaton Woods ES
William B. Gibbs, Jr. ES
William Tyler Page ES
Woodlin ES



What's Happening in our Schools?

Blake High School

Silver Spring, MD



“Potluck and a Project”

The Blake High School NAACP Parents' Council Annual Potluck and a Project was held on December 5. Parents brought a potluck dish and new unwrapped toys for donation to the Greentree Shelter in Bethesda, Maryland. The speaker from the Greentree Shelter inspired parents and students to come and volunteer in the future at the shelter.

Parents' Council representatives,
Sheila Holmes

andresheilah@yahoo.com

Jackie Bromfield

jackiebromfield@yahoo.com

Farquhar Middle School

Olney, MD

“Potluck, Project, Progress”

The purpose of this event was three fold. A Potluck dinner, a community service Project (toy drive), and a check in with our principal, Ms. Diane Morris, on the progress of the SIP plan. We would like to thank Ms. Morris and



Ms. Mary Jackson of the Greentree Shelter in Bethesda for participating in this event.

Thanks to FMS parent Sharon Cannon, for helping to coordinate this event.

Parents' Council representatives

Karen Campbell

Sharon Mosley-Ramsey

“Spotlight on our Best Practices”



We would like to spotlight, The Briggs Chaney Parent's Council under the leadership of Rachel Brown and Sheila Holmes for having a presence on their school's website. They use this website to advertise their events, or even post the PC Newsletter.

Good job Rachel!

<http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/schools/briggschaneyms/ptsa/NAACP.aspx>

Cluster Corner

Bethesda Chevy Chase, Walter Johnson, Wheaton, Whitman High Schools

Community Superintendent: Dr. Christopher Garran

Cluster rep: Odette Brown

The B-CC/Whitman/Walter Johnson & Wheaton Cluster, which was represented by a total of 21 PC representatives (at the Elementary, Middle and High School levels), had the opportunity following the **Special Edition Cluster Time** to participate with Dr. Chris Garran, Cluster Community Superintendent, in a lively conversation about concerns such as: engaging parents; equity in education, and the process for addressing parents concerns when conversations with teachers, counselors and the principal has not been received equitably and /or has yielded unsatisfactory outcomes. We barely touched on the topic of the new middle school site plans, however, Dr. Garran expressed that he would be happy to meet with PC representatives in the Cluster in January 2012, to continue our conversation. A parent recommended a "pot luck" meeting as a way to engage parents at her elementary school. We all agreed it was a great idea to have another meeting with Dr. Garran and PC representatives for the Cluster. Amy Brown, one of our parents has kindly offered to host the meeting at her home in January. Stay tuned for details.



Churchill, Richard Montgomery, Poolesville, Rockville Wootton High Schools

Community Superintendent: Dr. Donna Hollingshead

Cluster rep: Deidre Stubbs

The Richard Montgomery Cluster met and had a great turnout. Our Sup, Dr. Hollingshead, is very energetic and has a positive attitude about working with us. The children are at the top of the totem pole and her main focus. She certainly has a "pro-student" attitude. She too is a parent and can appreciate taking care of their needs. She has an open door policy and has encouraged all reps to contact her for any concerns. She wants to encourage all principals to be on board with us in trying to reach our goals. The only "real" issue discussed was a bus incident regarding the driver and an African American child. She recognized the issue and was well aware of the situation and advised it had been resolved. We appreciate the time spent with her and her willingness to hear our concerns. We look forward to our continued team work with Dr. Hollingshead.



Clarksburg, Northwest, Quince Orchard, Seneca Valley High Schools

Community Superintendent: Dr. LaVerne Kimball

Cluster rep: India Whitehead

This cluster enjoyed getting to know Dr. Kimball. They discussed continuing the conversation and plan to have another meeting. Dr. Kimball was very informative and knew the principals well. She put the school representatives at ease and assured them that she is available whenever they have concerns.



Northeast Consortium– Blake, Paint Branch, Springbrook High Schools and Sherwood High School

Community Superintendent: Ms. Beth Schiavino-Narvaez

Cluster reps: Sheila Holmes, Sharon Mosley-Ramsey

The Northeast Consortium and Sherwood HS cluster had met prior to this meeting to determine topics to be discussed. Topics discussed included articulation within the schools, communication, the future of the Choice program, transportation and academic intervention plans at the schools. We discussed the possibility of compiling the Academic Intervention programs at each of our schools to share with parents. Ms. Narvaez shared best practices from several schools. We look forward to more meetings with Ms. Narvaez.



Damascus, Gaithersburg, Magruder, Watkins Mill High Schools

Community Superintendent: Dr. Darryl Williams

Cluster reps: Angela Jones , Pam Picou

Highlights of discussion:

- Dr. Williams was asked about what to do when there is a concern at an individual school
- There was some discussion regarding math placement
- Dr. Williams talked about the heavy load the counselors have and the importance of parent involvement
- Dr. Williams suggested that we may need to reach out beyond the school building to engage parents and students
- One parent mentioned that over the summer she had a group of students that worked on the summer math packets at a community center.



Downcounty Consortium- Blair, Northwood, Einstein, Kennedy High Schools

Community Superintendent: Ms. Bronda Mills

Cluster rep: Soffie Ceesay

My main take-away(s) from the meeting is our access to Dr. Stetson's office and officers; the opportunity to build upon and continue the conversations we've begun.

Feedback from that day indicates a need to

"focus on academic success in elementary school independent of any discussion or focus on....."

"better prioritize resources targeted both at students during the school day and some targeted at the parents"

"come up with action items that will result in the outcomes we seek"

"Identify interventions that have been implemented in our schools to address the academic achievement gap and what the results have been"





Happy New Year from the NAACP Parents' Council !



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**PLEASE JOIN US FOR AN IMPORTANT
CONVERSATION ABOUT FUNDING FOR
OUR SCHOOLS ...
THE MAINTENANCE OF EFFORT LAW**

HOW DOES IT IMPACT MY CHILD'S EDUCATION?

DOES IT GUARANTEE A FLOOR FOR PER PUPIL FUNDING?

**WHAT IS "RE-BASING" AND WILL OUR SCHOOLS RECEIVE
\$70 MILLION LESS IN FUNDING NEXT YEAR AS A RESULT?**

**WHY ARE SCHOOLS SUBJECT TO STATE PENALTY IF COUNTIES DO
NOT MEET MOE, AND WILL OUR SCHOOLS BE PENALIZED \$26 MIL-
LION?**

**SHOULD THE LAW BE CHANGED, AND WHAT CAN I DO TO MAKE A
DIFFERENCE?**

Join us for a panel discussion you can't afford to miss with Maryland House Ways and Means Committee Chair Sheila Hixson, Maryland Senate Delegation Chair Jamie Raskin, House Delegation Chair Brian Feldman, elected leadership from the Montgomery County Council and Montgomery County Board of Education, and representatives from the Maryland Association of Boards of Education and Maryland Association of Counties.

Wednesday, January 4th, 2012, 7:30 – 9:00 pm
Carver Educational Services Center
850 Hungerford Drive
Rockville, MD 20850

Presented by the Montgomery County Council of PTAs and the
 NAACP Parents' Council