

## **Montgomery County Education Association (MCEA)**

Hello. My name is Bonnie Cullison and I am president of the Montgomery County Education Association, MCEA. I represent 11,000 members, who are the classroom teachers, special educators, media specialist and other non-supervisory staff in your building. They are responsible for designing, planning and implementing instructional programs for the students in your school.

MCEA has forged collaborative relationships with MCPS to create learning communities where mutual cooperation, personal growth, and emotional support are the cornerstones of our efforts to achieve the very best learning environment possible, not only for students, but for educators as well. In this professional learning community, everyone takes a role in providing the necessary materials, tools, resources, and expertise needed for the community to thrive. And in this school system, MCEA is truly a part of the action. We play an integral role in the planning and implementation and evaluation of the goals and the strategies designed to reach them. As you work with my members, you will see how the tenants of our system-wide learning community are interwoven into our contract with the Board of Education. While the contract outlines the wages, hours and working conditions, which are respectful of the complexity of the work my members do, it also states our commitment to building professional learning communities in every school in which all members see themselves as valuable in their contribution to the mission.

There is at least one MCEA Building Representative in your school, who is responsible for being the liaison between your staff and the MCEA member community at large. These members attend the Representative Assembly after school on the first Wednesday of each month. They make up the policy and decision-making body of the union. In addition, there is a UniServ Director, a union staff person, assigned to each school. These assignments are aligned with community superintendent quad-clusters. The role of this individual is to support the MCEA members in the building, providing them with information and facilitation and brokering for the resources they need to be a members of a successful learning community. They also support individual members if issues and concerns about performance and discipline arise.

We hope that you will see the union, MCEA, as a valuable resource to yourself as well. As you work with your staff to define the mission, vision and goals of your school, we can provide assistance and facilitation in creating a climate of shared values and beliefs that will contribute to a highly successful learning environment.

You can reach me, and the UniServ Director assigned to your school by calling MCEA at 301-294-6232. We are also available on First Class.

Congratulations on your new leadership assignment! We look forward to working with you to create a successful learning community, for both the adults and students in your school.