

Office of the Superintendent of Schools
MONTGOMERY COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Rockville, Maryland

March 27, 2019

MEMORANDUM

To: Members of the Board of Education

From: Jack R. Smith, Superintendent of Schools

Subject: Parent Academy Spring Workshops (02-25-19-06)

Question

During the Montgomery County Public Schools Strategic Plan: Fiscal Year 2019–2022 discussion, Ms. Wolff asked for more information about the locations for the Parent Academy Spring Workshops (April-June) and suggested that staff schedule the Parent Academy workshops at various locations throughout the county to allow for more community attendance.

Response

The Parent Academy provides parents/guardians the opportunity to participate in workshops at no cost that deliver information and support in several languages to help parents/guardians become full and effective partners in their children’s education. Staff in the Division of Student, Family and School Services (DSFSS) collaborates with community-based organizations and County agencies to deliver parent/guardian workshops throughout the County. Presenters, both school system staff and community partners, volunteer their time, skill, and expertise. Workshops are designed to be classroom size. As of February 28, 2019, 844 parents/guardians have participated in 48 workshops. Due to inclement weather, six workshops were cancelled.

This spring, Parent Academy workshops will be held in schools that are willing to host workshops. The programs are open to all parents/guardians in Montgomery County. Several workshops will be held at Montgomery County public libraries, enabling their staff to share information about their programs for the summer and encourage families to obtain and use library cards. Additionally, DSFSS is in the process of confirming dates and locations with faith-based organizations to provide workshops to include the Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS) Religious Diversity Guidelines and the MCPS Procedure for Bullying Reporting.

DSFSS staff partners with schools and the Montgomery County Community Use of Public Facilities to determine the sites for workshops that have no cost. DSFSS parent community coordinators conduct parent/guardian workshops in their assigned schools. Additionally, DSFSS staff members provide workshops for parent/guardian and community faith-based

organizations as requested. The requested workshops are for specific community groups such as The George B. Thomas, Sr. Learning Academy, Inc. Saturday School; churches, mosques, and temples; the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People Parents' Council, Padres en Accion groups, and the Chinese American Parent Association.

If you have any questions, please contact Dr. Jonathan T. Brice, associate superintendent for student and family support and engagement, Office of the Chief Academic Officer, at 240-740-5624.

JRS:MVN:JTB:pae

Copy to:
Executive Staff
Ms. Webb