

YOUR SCHOOL PTA, THE WOOTTON CLUSTER AND MCCPTA

Each PTA for a school that feeds into Wootton High School is part of the “Wootton Cluster” of PTAs; and each PTA is also a member of the Montgomery County Council of PTAs (MCCPTA).

It is through the Cluster that Wootton and its feeder schools provide testimony to the Board of Education and the County Council on the capital budgets for the schools (construction, expansion improvement of the physical plant), and on the Operating Budget (annual spending for the schools which is primarily for teachers and support staff, programs, and day to day costs of operating). At the Cluster level, school PTAs also share common concerns and work together to advance the interests of Cluster parents. Our Cluster is headed by three Cluster Coordinators: Rich Edelman, Carol Falk and Jen Pories. Our Cluster is also part of a larger “Area” comprised of the Wootton, Richard Montgomery, Churchill and Rockville Clusters.

MCCPTA is an association of the PTAs and PTSAs in the County MCCPTA is the central Montgomery County advocacy group for parent and student interests. MCCPTA speaks on education policy issues including subjects like curriculum, grading, safety and health, student rights, and budgets. Additionally, the MCCPTA often acts as a forum for MCPS and others to make presentations on schools issues and to receive feedback from PTAs. MCCPTA has also acted as a forum for presentations/debates by candidates for the School Board.

Each school PTA participates in MCCPTA through their Presidents and Delegates who attend monthly meetings. Typically an issue will be raised at the Delegate’s Assembly and, unless there is need for urgent action, the Delegates report on the issue at their next school PTA meeting and then rely on feedback from that meeting to vote on the issue at the next Delegate’s Assembly. Each school PTA should also have Cluster representatives, who attend periodic (every few months) Cluster meetings along with other officers. At Cluster meetings we discuss issues of common concern to our schools and receive updates from our Principals about current concerns, achievements and developments.

Every Wootton Cluster School should have at least one Delegate and one Cluster Representative (they can be the same person). Since we discuss policy issues that may arise at the MCCPTA level, MCCPTA Delegates are encouraged to attend Cluster meetings. Finally, since PTA is the advocacy group for children and education in the County school PTAs should make time for discussion of policy issues that are brought to them by Delegates and Cluster Representatives so that they can effectively represent the school PTA, and MCCPTA can effectively advocate for children and education at the County level.

Richard Edelman