



MCCPTA Briefing

Wayside Community News and Advocacy Update

■ COMMUNITY RECAP

Central Area Summer Advocacy Meeting

More than 90 community members, along with County Executive Marc Elrich, members of the Board of Education, Rockville Mayor Monique Ashton and City Councilmembers, Superintendent Dr. Thomas Taylor, PTA leaders, school administrators and community members, gathered at Wootton High School on July 29 for MCCPTA's Central Area Summer Advocacy Meeting.

Countywide concerns discussed during the evening included building unified, community-focused student bodies during new articulation patterns; respectful but challenging feedback on the Grade 9 English curriculum; safety training and consistent implementation of the Student Code of Conduct; a strong multilingual community engagement team that meets families where they gather; and improving the navigability of the MCPS website. Staff indicated website changes were expected in August.

Acknowledgements

This update is adapted from the MCCPTA briefing shared after the meeting. Amy Ackerberg-Hastings, MCCPTA Central Area Vice President, drafted the meeting summary. Betsy Tao and Jonathan Thessin collaborated in drafting the briefing. Many thanks for sharing this countywide advocacy information with Central Area PTAs.

■ FACILITIES

School Facility Condition Index (FCI)

MCPS has completed Facility Condition Index assessments for all schools. The FCI is intended to inform educational facility planning and help MCPS proactively address aging infrastructure. Lower values, closer to 0, indicate better building condition. The FCI data alone does not determine or sequence specific construction projects.

WAYSIDE SPOTLIGHT

Wayside Elementary's FCI Depleted Value is 0.288223.

This relatively low value indicates that Wayside Elementary is currently in comparatively good physical condition. It is one planning measure and does not by itself determine future capital projects.

Search the FCI for any MCPS school: ww2.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/departments/facilities/FCI/



MCCPTA Briefing

Wayside Community News and Advocacy Update

■ CALL TO ACTION

Board Handbook Changes Affecting Public Transparency

At its July 16 meeting, the Board of Education considered proposed handbook changes affecting how and when the public receives information and who receives priority to testify. The Board postponed consideration to a later date, leaving additional time for community feedback.

CHANGE 1 • ACCESS TO DOCUMENTS

Later access to supporting documents

The Board currently aims to post its agenda and supporting documents by the Friday before a meeting. The proposal would commit only to posting the agenda seven days ahead, removing the expectation that reports be public beforehand. Families could have less time to review materials, prepare testimony or contact Board members.

CHANGE 2 • PUBLIC TESTIMONY

New limits on who can testify

Current priority goes to people who have not spoken in the previous 30 days. The proposal would reserve priority for people who have never testified before. A suggested alternative is to cap speakers by topic so major issues are covered without excluding returning advocates.

Take Action

With the vote postponed, community members may email the Board of Education at boe@mcpsmd.org in support of transparency, timely access to supporting documents and meaningful opportunities for public participation in policymaking.

■ STUDENT WELL-BEING

Screen Time Audit Resolution Passes Unanimously

On July 16, the Board unanimously approved a resolution directing MCPS to conduct a comprehensive review of student screen time and digital tool use in Grades K-8. The resolution cites concerns about the effects of excessive screen use on learning and on students' mental and physical well-being.

Superintendent Dr. Taylor said MCPS would draw on device-usage data and community input and would present a work plan for the audit.

What This Means for Wayside Families

- Monitor future Board decisions affecting transparency and public participation.
- Participate in opportunities to provide feedback during the K-8 screen-time audit.
- Review Wayside facility planning information and future CIP discussions.
- Support multilingual family engagement and improved MCPS communication.
- Advocate for consistent safety practices and Student Code of Conduct implementation.

Source: MCCPTA Briefing following the July 29, 2026 Central Area Summer Advocacy Meeting