Between April 11th and May 2nd, MCEA members will elect colleagues to serve on the MCEA Board of Directors. Positions up for election include: 2 Elementary School Directors, 1 Middle School Director and 2 At-Large Directors.

Those elected will serve from July 1, 2016 through June 30, 2019. The election will be conducted online. You will be sent a secure link and must vote by 5:00p.m. on May 2nd.

If you do not receive an online ballot, contact Kiwana Hall at khall@mceanea.org before May 2nd. Statements from all declared candidates are included on the following pages. All members vote for candidates in all races.

Meet the Candidates!
MCEA Board of Directors 2016 Elections

BRIAN DONLON
At-Large Director
Social Studies Teacher /Richard Montgomery High School

Qualifications
- Current member of MCEA Board of Directors
- PAR Panel Voting Member
- Member of two MCEA Contract Bargaining Teams
- Building Rep/EFR-18 Years
- Co-chair MCEA Paid Family Leave/Childcare Task Force
- Twenty-two years as an MCPS Classroom Teacher
- National Board Certified Teacher
- Parent of two boys, Sean age 6 (first grade-Cedar Grove E.S.) and Rory age 3.

Priorities
- Protect negotiated steps/colas and health care cost sharing formulas
- Advocate for 21st Century Paid Family Leave Policies
- Partner with MCPS to create high quality childcare centers for the children of MCPS employees
- Work with the Board of Education and the Superintendent on protecting the core elements of our nationally recognized PAR System
- Renewed vigilance on time and workload issues
- Advocate for increased support, release time, and training to deal with the increased demands of curriculum 2.0 and Common Core/PARCC.
- Greater Support, Advocacy, and Recognition for Building Reps.

LEONARDO DE VALOES
At-Large Director
Spanish Teacher/Poolesville High School

Leonardo De Valões Jr. is a distinguished professor of world languages, teaching at the high school and collegiate levels. He has earned several degrees in education, psychology, and Spanish language and culture from the University of Central Florida and the University of Salamanca in Spain. A native of Brazil, Leo has lived in Rio de Janeiro, New York, and has resided in the greater Washington, D.C. metropolitan area for the past decade. His vast multicultural and previous educational experiences on three continents have enabled him to understand what it takes to transform students into world leaders.

More green schools – It is his belief that the MCPS goal that 50% of its schools be certified as Green Schools by 2024 is essential. He is fully committed to helping MCEA assist in achieving and exceeding this goal. MCPS has a goal that 50% of its schools be certified Green Schools by 2024. Currently, 30 out of 202 schools are certified.

Less testing – Testing should always be in service of learning. Learning should never be in service of testing. Testing should always advance the educational process and not be viewed as an end in itself.

Closing the achievement gap – Because the achievement gap has its roots in societal disparities involving income, race and ethnicity, addressing these disparities with a broadly integrated approach is necessary.
HENOC HAILU
At-Large Director
Special Education Teacher/ White Oak Middle School

This is year number four for me as an educator! As a product of MCPS, it is necessary for me to continuously focus on improving the state of public education for this county. I have been very involved with MCEA. I have worked as a Building Representative, Elected Faculty Representative (EFR), been a delegate to MSEA's 2015 Representative Assembly, Montgomery Institute ambassador, Bell Time Workgroup, Bargaining Team, attended town halls with our community, advocated for a bigger budget, supported affordable housing for all stakeholders, and more! Through all of these experiences, I feel that the following are currently the most important issues to focus on:

- Improving membership outreach.
- Empowering the voices for all educators.
- Supporting new educators to our county.
- Closing the Opportunity Gap.

I will fight for the best interests for all members. It is time to think outside the box! I am ready to bring my joy, good jokes, and passion to MCEA's Board of Directors.

STEPHANIE HALLORAN
At-Large Director
English Teacher/Northwood High School

Over Spring Break, I found a draft of a campaign poster for my failed bid for 3rd grade class president. It reads: “It doesn't matter if black or white, Stephanie will treat everybody right!” I am committed to fairness, and now I can honestly say my commitment goes back 40 years. One of my core values is practicing empathy, which is at the heart of fairness. To increase the public's empathy for our profession, I helped bring about “Teach for a Day,” an event I want to revive because it offers an opportunity for the community to really “get” the complex, intellectual work teachers do. As well, we need to engage the public around teacher diversity. Recruiting diverse teaching staff should start here, in our community. For example, MCPS could offer a teacher apprenticeship program, as many districts do, and tap into the diverse backgrounds of those who already reside here and have ties. Such a program could provide an authentic learning experience for potential teachers, and additional leadership opportunities for our members.

We need to take risks in order to build the member diversity, experience, and leadership that’s so valuable for students. I have 20 years' experience as a teacher in both private and public schools, 12 as Building Rep, 8 as a Resource Teacher, and 6 as a former Board Director. My experience has made me an empathic, effective, communicator and advocate. As At Large Director, I will push for innovative, inclusive approaches to our profession’s complex challenges.

2016 MCEA BOARD OF DIRECTOR NOMINEES AT-A-GLANCE

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<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Position</th>
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<td>Valerie Coll</td>
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<td>Elementary Teacher</td>
<td>Flora Singer ES</td>
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<td>Bryan Hunter</td>
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<td>Heather Hunter</td>
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<td>Bryan Bucklin</td>
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<td>Joshua Halpren</td>
<td>MS Director</td>
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<td>Angela Wang</td>
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<td>Leonardo De Valoes</td>
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<td>Ambereen Khan-Baker</td>
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<td>Brian Donlon</td>
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<td>Stephanie Halloran</td>
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<td>Henoch Hailu</td>
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AMBEREEN KHAN-BAKER
At-Large Director
NBCT/ English Teacher/Rockville High School

As a classroom teacher of 10 years, I understand the issues and challenges facing our students, especially first-generation students. As a product of MCPS and a first-generation student myself, I had teachers who pushed and encouraged me to seek opportunities. Students are my first priority.

I am committed to
• Advocating for students’ needs, especially reducing class sizes and reducing standardized testing in schools.
• Providing opportunities for teachers to guide them forward in their profession.
• Organizing teachers and engaging them in conversations aimed at understanding the needs of our students so that both the teachers’ and the students’ voices can be heard.
• Building relationships with our all our stakeholders to create a climate that fosters positivity and equity.

I’ve been honored to serve in the following positions:
• Building representative at Rockville High School
• NEA panelist at the White House Summit on Worker Voice
• Blogger for National Board for Professional Teaching Standards
• Ambassador for Montgomery Institute
• Member of MCEA Executive Board for NBCTs
• Coordinator of Candidate Support Provider training in our Montgomery County NBCT Network
• National Design Team Partner in the NEA’s National Board Jump Start program
• National Board Candidate Support Provider
• Council Member Contact Team Member.

If we want to make a change in our community, we have to be united in purpose and action. I look forward to continuing our work in advocating for our students.

ANGELA WANG
At-Large Director
Social Studies Teacher/Clarksburg High School

Hello! I am Angela Wang and I currently teach National, State, Local (NSL) Government (10th Grade Social Studies) at Clarksburg High School. In past years I have taught 12th Grade IB History, 6th and 7th Grade World Studies, 9th Grade U.S. History and NSL of all levels (ESOL, On-level, Co-taught, and Honors). I am running for one of the at-large director positions for MCEA. As an Early Career Leadership Fellow, an Equity Warrior continuing my journey in the inaugural Equity Masters cohort, a member of Clarksburg’s Equity team, former Vice President of the College Park Scholars Alumni Club, and a member of the 12-month pay committee representing MCEA, I am ready take on a new representative role. My goal is to learn from you by listening to your needs.

I am a teacher because of my amazing 8th Grade U.S. History teacher at Cabin John. In my role as a mother of two, I want to ensure that my sons will receive the same quality education I did. I cannot do it without you. I cannot guarantee the excellence of MCPS without engaging with, listening to, and learning from the members of MCEA. I will use my experiences to foster a teacher’s network through MCEA’s support and to make the teaching profession less an island and more a community. More importantly, I will look at the amazing work MCEA does and foster the collaboration of young and veteran teachers to make projects more beneficial and efficient for all of us.
BRYAN BUCKLIN  
Elementary School Director  
Special Education Teacher/Piney Branch Elementary School

My name is Bryan Bucklin and I am a candidate for the MCEA Board of Directors. I have previous experience as a member of the PGCEA Board of Directors. I feel that it is important for MCEA to increase member involvement, fight to improve salary and benefits and reduce teacher workload. As a member of the Board of Directors I will work to ensure that MCEA is an organization that will benefit all members.

VALERIE COLL  
Elementary School Director  
Elementary Teacher/ Flora M. Singer Elementary School

I have been a teacher in MCPS for 28 years. In all of those years, I have served in a variety of roles – team leader, new teacher mentor, master teacher, supervising teacher, science leadership through the HHMI grant, PADI teacher and, most importantly, classroom teacher. I have had the honor to be an MCEA representative at every school I have worked at, an EFR and a Council on Teaching and Learning representative.

In all of these roles and through all of these duties I believe that the following ideas and issues are central to improving our work as teachers – for ourselves and for our students:

- Growing and empowering teacher voice for all teachers – regardless of tenure, position or school location
- Building community among teachers and within the greater Montgomery County community independent of MCPS direction or outreach
- Deliberately and strongly advocating for changes to the weight of the current teacher workload to streamline and clarify paperwork, planning and assessment demands

While other issues create urgency, it is through careful attention to these core ideas that I believe we as MCEA make our strength apparent and our determination to make a difference a reality.

BRYAN HUNTER  
Elementary School Director  
Elementary Teacher/Diamond Elementary School

My name is Bryan Hunter and I will convey a diverse and creative set of viewpoints to the Board of Directors. I will develop these viewpoints in others as well as challenge my own views in developing the best models of instruction for ALL students in MCPS.

I was born and grew up in West Virginia and did not always excel in school, though I had the ability. I carried a chip on my shoulder from learning very early that people viewed me as my set of circumstances rather than who I was or my aspirations. I did, however, carry a strong sense of esteem from those special educators and parents that believed in me. I travelled and lived in a variety of places after High School, gaining experience, learning from everything I could and growing as a person. It was a volunteer opportunity tutoring children from refugee camps that led me to pursue a career in education. I worked as a special education paraeducator for four years as I attended school and then went on to a successful and continuing career as an inclusion-focused teacher in both LAD and Home School Model programs.

Based on my life experience and my ability to work successfully with kids as well as all levels (both based on experience and comfort) of teacher, paraeducator and administrator, I look forward to successfully serving on the Board to create and adjust the programming and mindsets that create success for ALL of our students.
HEATHER HUNTER  
Elementary School Director  
Elementary Teacher/Summit Hall Elementary School  

I have 18 years of teaching experience in MCPS elementary schools. My background includes being a classroom teacher in grades 3, 4, and 6, a technology teacher in grades K-5 and most recently as a K-2 STEM. I am committed to increasing member involvement at the local, state and national level, closing the opportunity gap, advocating for less standardized testing in our schools, and reducing teacher workload.

Involvement:  
- EFR and MCEA Building Representative  
- Attended MCEA 100 Strong Retreat  
- Completed MCEA Leadership Institute modules  
- Co-Chair of Political Action & Legislative Support Committee  
- Delegate and PAC Captain at the 2015 NEA RA and MSEA RA  
- MCEA Organizing Captain - 2014 Elections  
- Ambassador for the Montgomery Institute (collaboration between MCEA and NEA)  
- Featured in MSEA’s Less Testing, More Learning campaign  
- Serves on MSEA’s Membership Organizing Committee

My experiences in MCEA, MSEA and NEA have given me the opportunity to advocate for those closest to the issues. I look forward to the opportunity to build relationships with teachers from across the county to defend and promote our profession.

JOSHUA HALPREN  
Middle School Director  
World Studies Teacher/Eastern Middle School  

I’m Josh Halpren and I’m running to be your Middle School Director on the MCEA Board of Directors. I am proud to be a second-year Sixth Grade Social Studies Teacher at Eastern Middle School, as well as a student in the Equity Certificate program, and a graduate of MCEA’s SPARKS program. As your middle school director I hope to bring new energy and enthusiasm to the Board by:

- Working to recruit and support new teachers. It’s not enough to contact our new teachers at NEO. MCEA must create communities of new teachers to further engagement in the union and retain our very best.
- Listening to and addressing the concerns of underrepresented teachers including those in unique positions such as World Languages, Arts, and Magnet teachers. These teachers are oftentimes isolated due to the specialty of their positions. MCEA must play a key role in engaging these professionals and making their voices heard.
- Protecting and strengthening our Professional Growth System. As a product of PAR I will fight to defend our system while continuing to insist that the focus be on development and improvement rather than a “gotcha” system of evaluation. I will also work to ensure that the PGS system is consistently evaluated for its effectiveness and fairness.
- Committing to equity and reducing the opportunity gap. Having worked with AFT and as a teacher in an incredibly diverse school, I believe strongly in the power of unions to lead the fight for equity in public schools.