

# Newletter from the ES

## Council for Teaching & Learning



October 2024

Dear Fabulous Teachers,

The CTL representatives devoted this month's meeting to selecting our focus topics for this year. With that end in mind, we started our meeting with updates from members who attended the Labor Management Restructuring Transition Team meetings. If you are not familiar with this group, they serve one purpose: to restructure the different collaboration and labor management collaboration committees into more efficient (and less redundant) collaboration structures. With the understanding that MCEA is an organization with many layers thus it requires collaboration committees that are both focused (targeted) and include a variety of voices (representatives). They had three meetings in which about 40 MCEA members representing different groups participated. Here is what has been discussed:

- The Committee came up with changes to the Constitution that they moved to the Representative Assembly (RA).
- The RA will vote to send this language change to the membership for adoption (see more details at the bottom of this newsletter).
- The next step will be to discuss the following:
  - Which LMCC should we have and what will be their charge?
  - How can the LMCC be more efficient?
  - Who should be in these groups? Should they be voted in? Or appointed?
  - What should be the norm for communicating their work with MCEA members?
  - How can these changes be captured in the bylaws?
- Lastly, these ideas will go to the MCEA board for review and taken to the Representative Assembly for voting.

We then turned our attention to analysis of feedback we received from MCEA members to identify areas of concerns. We identified the following areas:

- ELD related concerns (appropriateness of the professional development, lack of teacher materials, etc.)
- Technology related (Synergy, HIAT, AT)
- Science/Social Studies- How does it align with CKLA? Is there a grade level crosswalk to allow for curriculum alignment between the subjects? If not- can one be created?

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- CKLA- How is the lack of time for interventions addressed? How is the lack of materials for students and teachers addressed? How are we addressing the increase in testing time that will now be added due to the CKLA assessments?
- Kindergarten issues (loss of play centers, lack of collaboration from PEP sending schools, removal of orientation day for incoming K students, etc.)
- Grading & Reporting: should report cards be more standard based?

Our plan this year is to reach out to you and ask for your feedback, suggestions, questions, and concerns in regards to the topics above before we contact MCPS to come and provide us with answers. We hope that in this way, we will be able to advocate for things that matter most to us all, provide MCPS with feedback from you, and be able to provide you with answers to some questions and concerns.

Also: News regarding CKLA and PM:  
*Per Melaika Brown:*

The test window will open on 10/25. Teachers will be able to go into the test and preview the layout. We will get the Test ID as soon as possible. The exam will appear as follows in Performance Matters.

<b>Unit 2</b>	Spelling, Reading Comprehension, Grammar, Morphology	90 min	10/25
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Students should have access to all documented accommodations. The assessment is administered paper/pencil. Teachers will score and enter the scores in PM. (Special Education)

### Reminders:

If you have any questions about anything above or need more information from our meeting this past month, please do not hesitate to reach out to us.

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If you ever have any questions, concerns, or topics you'd like us to discuss at our meetings, please do not hesitate to reach out to put them in [this document](#) and we will do our best to answer them in the document, in our meetings, and in our monthly letters.

### Additional information & Resources:

- [RA notes](#)
- [HIAT Quick Guide](#)
- [uPAR Overview from the Vendor](#)
- [Accommodations - Classroom vs. Testing](#)
- [Research supporting the use of text-to-speech](#)
- [Clarksburg's success with using text to speech for all students](#)
- [MCPS AT Support Portal](#)

## Constitutional Amendment

### ARTICLE VII. Constituency Councils

Constituency Councils shall be established by the Association. **Any group of members charged with carrying out the work of the Association, not otherwise specified in this Constitution, shall be considered a Constituency Council.** ~~under procedures contained in the Bylaws.~~

The composition of the Councils, powers of the bodies, qualifications of council members, terms, manner of selection, removal, their duties and other such matters shall be specified **in writing.** ~~in the Bylaws.~~

~~Members shall be involved in the development of MCEA policy and practice on curriculum, instruction, and assessment through constituency-based "Councils on Teaching and Learning."~~

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Sincerely,

Your devoted CTL representatives