

# ALL OUT FOR APRIL 11<sup>TH</sup> !!

MCEA is always judicious about calling on its members to turn out for rallies and demonstrations. We all understand how precious teacher time is. But now is the time. All MCEA members are strongly urged to attend the County Council budget hearing on Wednesday April 11th (7:00pm at the Council building, 100 Maryland Ave., Rockville).

County Executive Ike Leggett has proposed a budget that leaves MCPS \$20 million short. The Board of Ed has proposed a budget increase of just under \$137 million. \$122 million of that amount is to fund employee salaries and benefits.

While Leggett has publicly committed to full funding of our negotiated contracts, and has said he would not recommend a budget that would harm our schools, he has not yet identified where he thinks the \$20 million in cuts can be absorbed.

All three school employee unions are united in believing that the county can afford to fully fund the proposed MCPS budget. The county's projections on income tax revenue are inexplicitly low - less than 1/2 the increase projected for this year.

The unions are calling on the County Exec - and the County Council - to take responsibility to identify where they would cut the MCPS budget to absorb any shortfall they recommend in funding.

Now is the time that we need to demonstrate widespread support for funding of the MCPS budget - and our contracts. Organize a delegation from your school or worksite. Arrive early. Bring custom made 8 1/2x11 signs. Watch for more details later this week.

## SHORT TAKES

### **CORRECTION: On Location for Involuntary Transfer Meeting**

Teachers are to be notified by March 26th. A meeting is scheduled for Tuesday March 27th, 4-6pm. The meeting will be held at Julius West Middle School.

### **Climate Survey Deadline: March 30**

Don't be silent! Let your voice and opinion be heard. Whether it's laudatory or critical, feedback on your school's environment can be constructive and contribute to school improvement. **All comments are anonymous and MCEA strongly encourages you to participate.** If you have not received a password, ask your principal or contact MCEA.

### **Information Session on Nat'l Board Certification**

Interested in learning more about, and possibly becoming a Nat'l Board Certified Teacher? Come to an information session on Thursday, March 29 from 5-7 p.m. at the MCEA Conference Center to learn about the process, what to expect, and how to apply. Tuition scholarships are available. Becoming an NBCT brings with it a \$4,000 annual salary supplement.

### **Teacher Appreciation Night: the Washington Wizards**

Join other teachers on Friday, March 30 for "Teacher Appreciation Night" to watch the Washington Wizards take on the Toronto Raptors at 7:00 p.m., all for only \$10. Tickets can be ordered at [www.verizoncenter.com/teacherappreciation](http://www.verizoncenter.com/teacherappreciation) as long as supplies last.

## TEACHER TIP

### Temperature Check

(grades K – 4th)

While spring is almost here, this tool can be used year round. Kids always complain when recess gets canceled because of being too cold out; they also frequently ask, “what do I need to wear outside?” Try this: make a thermometer out of construction paper, leaving room on the side to write notes. As you experience new temperatures, make notes on the thermometer. On the opposite side you can place a clothespin. Each day, before recess, read the real thermometer (or check on the computer), and one student moves the clothespin to the correct place on the classroom thermometer. That student also reads the notes the class made about how the air felt the last time it was that temperature. Then by looking at the notes, you and your class can decide what to wear outside. If you’ve never experienced the temperature before, then you can tell your kids to pay close attention when they’re outside. One day when it gets really cold, take them out for a brief 5 minutes to experience what that temperature feels like. Then, if recess is canceled, you can just tell your kids what the temperature is and they understand. On the class thermometer, you can keep your notes to the 10s (for space), and then tell them the actual temperature, and round to the nearest 10. Your notes may say things like, ‘30 degrees - cold must have coat zipped with a hat and gloves.

These tips were gathered from "Works4me" an NEA on-line program. For additional tips, e-mail to [lyris@list.nea.org](mailto:lyris@list.nea.org). Then in the message block, type: subscribe Works4me (with no punctuation)

## ON THE JOB

### The Voluntary Transfer Process

Thinking about transferring schools? All you need to know is spelled out in Article 24 of the MCEA/BOE Contract (p.56) and in a booklet entitled *Teacher Transfer Process*, published by MCPS and now available in schools and on the MCPS website.

#### Who Can transfer?

Any teacher who has three or more years of service (and who has not received a below standard evaluation that has resulted in inclusion in the PAR Program) may seek a

voluntary transfer. Second year teachers who have received a meets standard evaluation may also pursue a transfer.

#### Timeline

The vacancy list will be activated on the MCPS website on Monday, March 26th. Teachers can begin making Job Fair interview reservations on Wednesday, March 28th. The Job Fairs will be held April 10-12. Voluntary transfers can begin on April 13th. The transfer season is open until Friday, May 18th, when it closes temporarily for any remaining involuntary transfer placements. The final date for voluntary transfers is July 20.

## MCEA/MCTFCU Financial Education Seminars

4/12 & 4/24 - Identity Theft  
4/17 & 5/03 - The Drama of Investing

Contact Joan Renne (301-294-6232 or [jrenne@mcea.nea.org](mailto:jrenne@mcea.nea.org)) to reserve a seat.

### ***Tradewinds* Submission Policies**

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DEADLINE to submit ads for the next issue: April 9th.