

MCEA FOR BETTER SCHOOLS advocate

CANDIDATES FOR MCEA Board of Directors

Between April 24th and May 6th, MCEA members will elect colleagues to serve on the MCEA Board of Directors. Positions up for election include: President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, 1 Elementary School Director, 1 Middle School Director, and 1 High School Director.

Those elected will serve from July 1, 2009 through June 30, 2012. Elections will be held in your school or worksite. Contact your MCEA Building Representative if you do not receive a ballot. Statements from all declared candidates are printed on the following pages.

CANDIDATE FOR MCEA PRESIDENT

Doug Prouty

I am honored to be President-Elect and look forward to serving the members of MCEA for the next three years. Thank you.

Time and workload: We will focus on adding contract language in the next round of bargaining to reduce the demands on the time of educators which do not directly contribute to their work with students. We will also seek to expand and protect individual planning time at all levels and make it easier for teachers around the county to share their expertise with each other.

School and worksite climate: There are schools and worksites in which collaboration really works, but in too many places the expertise of MCEA members is not respected in the decision making process. In too many places, the people closest to the work feel less and less ownership over how the work is done. We can improve this by focusing on respect and involvement in all aspects of our work.

Communication: I hope to utilize the MCEA website to create an issues driven blog, create podcasts featuring both leaders and grassroots members about topical issues, and make use of internet survey tools. We can use technology to help the community understand the complexity of our work. In addition, we will schedule monthly town hall meetings for MCEA members and leadership. The sites and time at which we meet will vary to make the meetings accessible for all members over the course of a year.

Budget: We must continue to focus on protecting the jobs and benefits of MCEA members and ensuring that when times improve, we realize meaningful increases in salary for all members.

The years ahead will be challenging, but we can improve the status of educators in Montgomery County by tapping our own strength and relying on each other.



CANDIDATE FOR TREASURER

Michele Green

My name is Michele Green. I am a staff development teacher at Rock Terrace School in Rockville.

Some of my contributions to the association have included:

- Membership Committee
 - PALS Committee
 - March on Annapolis
 - Councils for Teaching and Learning
 - State Delegate
- On the national level:
- Delegate
 - State Contact
 - Human Rights
 - Peace and Justice

I wish to continue to serve you. I promise to listen and advocate for you. I plan to be fiscally responsible as your treasurer. Thank you for your continued support.



Eric Luedtke

As a classroom teacher and a member of the MCEA Board of Directors, it is an enormous pleasure working with the dedicated educators of Montgomery County. Now, in the midst of a recession, in challenging times for public education, it is essential that we make MCEA an ever stronger voice for public school students and the professionals who serve them. That means improving salaries and benefits, addressing workload, and looking at new ways for educators to have input into schools and the school system. And it will require experienced leaders who know how to get things done.



As an MCEA Board Member, I have worked:

- To secure strong salaries and benefits for our members.
- As a county leader in our successful pension reform efforts.
- Toward finding solutions to the workload crisis affecting county educators.
- On efforts to make MCEA more responsive to the needs of all members.

As MCEA Vice President, I will work for:

- Improved salaries and benefits for all members.
- Real solutions to the workload crisis, including contractual guarantees.
- Greater staff input into decision-making at their worksites.
- Expanded opportunities for members to have a say in the union's work.

I ask for your vote for MCEA Vice President so I can help make this vision a reality.

Christopher Lloyd

I am running for MCEA Vice President because I believe the voice of teachers is vital to great education, and because I believe those of us involved in the day-to-day life of schools and offices that support schools have much untapped insight that will benefit our system and our students. It is my vision that MCEA officers lead through vision and experience, and create and maintain systems to listen to MCEA members on a regular basis.

I'm a classroom teacher and have been teaching for 20 years in MCPS. I taught for 14 years at Blair High School, and am now at Baker MS. I've served on the MCEA Board of Directors. I'm the Chair of the Middle School Council on Teaching and Learning, a member of the Career Lattice Panel, and the head building rep. I am a National Board Certified Teacher in Career and Technology Education, and serve on the Governor's Commission on School Leadership. And I always want to teach children.



Teaching is difficult work, and a noble and honorable profession. We, in education, know the challenges and opportunities presented to us on a daily basis, and are connected more directly to the work than elected officials or policy makers. It takes a strong, passionate, and respectful voice to represent such honorable work, and I ask for your support so that together, we might best give voice to our association's work. For more biographical information and to learn more about my candidacy, go to ww.ListenToTeachers.org.

Joan Mory

I am running for MCEA Secretary because I am a resourceful and resilient advocate for teachers and believe that it is the responsibility of our association to build the leadership capacity of our members. The two variables that have the most profound impact on student achievement are teacher quality and leadership quality. I believe that MCEA's leadership must be committed to providing members with the knowledge and skills required to meet the educational challenges teachers face daily. This will be achieved through improved communication and collaboration within MCEA.



I have taught for over 20 years as a special education teacher, SDT, and instructional specialist with the Professional Learning Communities Institute. I bring experience as a Board of Directors member, National Board Certified Teacher, Vice-Chair of the MCEA Instruction and Professional Development Committee, member of the Career Lattice Panel, and negotiations team member to the position.

As MCEA secretary, I will bring my skills, competence, and knowledge to the role of archivist of our meetings. I will serve you with honor and distinction. I vow to listen attentively, take accurate notes, demand more transparency within our organization, champion the issue of equity, and engage more members in the important work we have ahead of us. I believe that being a leader isn't about me...it is about how I inspire others to lead. I respectfully ask for this opportunity to inspire each of you to lead, and to serve you, the members of this association! For more biographical information and to learn more about my candidacy go to www.JoanMory.com

Amy Watkins

I'm a Math teacher at Loieder-man MS. My involvement with NEA began when I was a student member at SCSU (Minnesota). The foundation I received there and my love of the education profession sparked my continued activism when I came to MCPS. I started as a building rep at Jackson Road ES and served on the MCEA PALS committee. Now I'm the Membership Chair & serve on the MCEA Board of Directors as an Elementary & At-large director. I deeply appreciate your past support and look forward to serving you on the MSTA Board of Directors. I look to you now for your support as I run for MCEA Secretary.



As MCEA Secretary, I will be attentive to your concerns & I am committed to the following priorities:

- Improving working conditions & encouraging a positive balance between work and home.
- Finding innovative ways to reduce workloads & strengthen contract language for planning time.
- Empowering members to collaborate with administration at the school level to increase teacher input in school policy decision-making.
- Connecting to more of our members by holding town hall meetings, creating social events & networking opportunities for members to participate in.
- Improving communication by utilizing technology via podcasts, webinars, blogs, & continuous updates to our website.

We have what it takes to improve teaching and learning in this county. With my proven commitment to our Association and your invaluable input, we have the power to change our profession. Vote Amy Watkins for MCEA Secretary!

CANDIDATE FOR HIGH SCHOOL DIRECTOR

Patrick McCann

This is my 3rd year teaching English in the ED program at Magruder HS in Rockville. Prior to coming to Montgomery County, I taught for 12 years in Prince Georges County. I published a newsletter for teachers at Northwestern HS, where I taught for 11 years. I was a building rep in PGCEA for a decade, and on PGCEA's board of directors from 1997 to 2003. This is my 15th year as a member of NEA and MSTA.



Earlier, I worked in a defense plant for 9 years, holding the following positions in Local 1140 of the International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers (IAMAW): local treasurer, shop steward, newsletter editor, and delegate to both the DC-area AFL-CIO Central Labor Council and District 67 of the Machinists.

I am a USAF veteran, national board member of Veterans For Peace, and member of both the NEA's Peace and Justice and Caribbean caucuses. In 1988, I was a Jesse Jackson candidate delegate for MD's 8th CD to the Democratic Party's national convention.

I attended St. Mary's Catholic School in Rockville from 1958 to 1965 and Julius West Junior High (now Middle) school for the 1965-66 school year. I hold two degrees from the University of Maryland (College Park), and am the founder of the Food Coop based there in the Student Union. I look forward to using this wealth of experience in union and peace and justice movements in the service of Montgomery County teachers.

CANDIDATE FOR MIDDLE SCHOOL DIRECTOR

Kihara Dorsey

Kihara Dorsey has been an English instructor for seven years in the Montgomery County Public School System. Kihara graduated from Temple University with a B.A. in Journalism/English. Kihara received a Master of Arts in Education from UMBC, Baltimore County, MD and a Master of Science in Administration and Supervision from The Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, MD.

Kihara has an extensive background teaching Middle School English grades 6, 7 & 8th. She taught English at Kingsview Middle School in Germantown, MD from 2002–2005. Kihara currently teaches English at Loiederman Middle School in Silver Spring, MD. and has taught here at Loiederman since the school opened in 2005.

Kihara has been an active member of MCEA/NEA for seven years and a Mentor teacher since 2002. She is very proud and appreciative that she was selected to be a NEA/RA delegate

for 2008 and 2009! Kihara is also a member of the Council on Teaching and Learning. As an active member for MCEA, she works hard to reach out to constituents in order to understand their concerns and to keep them informed about important developments which may affect them and to find solutions for teachers' concerns in education.

Kihara is devoted to her church; First Baptist Church of Elkridge and serves as the Youth Ministry's Coordinator. She loves to spend time with family and loves traveling to the Caribbean. She is also a member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority. Kihara resides in Columbia, Maryland.



CANDIDATE FOR ELEMENTARY SCHOOL DIRECTOR

Eboni Walker

Our youngest citizens, those yet with a voice to vote, rely and depend on us to give them the very best educational opportunities we can provide. Recently, a colleague told me, "Happy teachers make successful students." How can our Association help ensure happiness for its members and ultimate success for our students? We do this when we honor educators' input and yield to their expertise. We do this when we are purposeful in our political activism and effective in our pursuit of additional support and resources to improve working conditions for employees.

In our local Association, I have demonstrated leadership by serving in various capacities. As a Building Rep I have listened to the overwhelmed voices of my colleagues. As a dedicated member of the Membership Committee and Coordinator of the Gold Stars Program, I am committed to building pathways for teacher leadership in our Association. Additionally, I have

been politically active at the local level, informing the community and our legislators about our priorities, speaking out in opposition to legislation that threatens to undercut public school funding, and speaking up for our members' right to have access to neutral party negotiations. As an Elementary School Director, I will continually advocate for ways to reduce workloads and increase planning time for teachers.

I am motivated, committed and determined to positively impact the quality of teaching and learning in our school system. I look forward to raising your voice as an MCEA Elementary School Director!

