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The official newsletter of PGCEA

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CIVIC ACADEMY: COMMUNITY SCHOOLS

What is a "Community School"? How will it impact our school system next school year? And, How is it different from our current schools? Come out to our next Civic Academy with the Alliance to Reclaim Our Schools Prince George's County and learn everything that you need to know about Community Schools.

SAVE THE DATE: June 13, 2019

Time: 4:30 pm

Location: Cora L. Rice Elementary School

[Click here](#) to RSVP!



A Great Schools Partnership Strategy



Ratification VOTE is open until June 12th until 5:00 PM!!!!!!

MEMBERSHIP INVOLVEMENT

PGCEA is looking for members to become involved and join our committees. Below are a list of committees you can join.



Budget Committee: The Budget Committee, in consultation with officers and staff, is responsible for preparing a PGCEA budget proposal for each fiscal year.

Bylaws Committee: The Bylaws Committee is responsible for recommending revisions of the Bylaws for adoption by the Rep Council.

Community Partnerships & Schools Committee: Establish community partners and coordinate a united group to support implementation of best school practices.

Future Educators Committee: Future Educators Committee recruits and serves the National Education Association (NEA) student members in Prince George's County Colleges and Universities as well as introduce the Early Educators who are employed by the system to the benefits of being an active participant of the Association at all levels.

Government Relations & Political Action Committee: The Government Relations Committee focuses on lobbying the school board, county council and State legislature; interviewing, endorsing and supporting candidates; educating members about issues; and raising funds to be used for political goals of the profession and the Association.

Grievance Committee: This committee evaluates the merits of system-wide grievances and makes recommendations.

Lesson Planning Committee: This is a contractual joint committee with PGCPs to make recommendations to the PGCPs CEO on consideration of language to determine a comprehensive approach to lesson planning.

Membership Committee: The Membership Committee is responsible for establishing goals to recruit and maintain members in the Association.

Minority Affairs Committee: The Minority Affairs Committee reviews and assesses Association goals, objectives, programs, and long-range plans in order to ensure that ethnic-minority concerns addressed. The committee also coordinates scholarships with PGCEA Foundation.

New Teacher Engagement Committee: Committee geared to working with new teachers.

Nominations, Elections & Credentials Committee: The Nominations, Elections, and Credentials Commission is responsible for conducting all elections, certifying attendance at Rep Council, and ratification of the Collective Bargaining Agreement. The Commission proposes the Standard Election Procedures for adoption by the Board of Directors.

MEMBERSHIP INVOLVEMENT (CONT.)

Professional Development and Leadership Committee: The Professional Development and Leadership Committee addresses issues, provides for training, forum and conferences that impact teaching and learning. This committee also disseminates information on best practices, leadership models and initiatives, as well as seeks public and political engagement for the improvement of public education.

Public Relations Committee: The Public Relations Committee objectives are to develop and maintain positive external and internal public relationship program for the Association that reflect Association Mission and values.

Radical Readers Committee: During Read Across America, radical readers focuses on middle school.

Read Across America Committee: The Read Across America Committee focuses on reading motivation and awareness that calls for every child in every community to celebrate reading on March 2, the birthday of beloved children's author Dr. Seuss.

Restorative Practices & Social Justice Committee: Restorative Practice Committee will evaluate current school system policies on discipline and will train members on restorative practices.

Sick Leave Bank Committee: The Sick Leave Bank Committee is responsible for reviewing and approving Sick Leave Bank requests, recommending disability retirement and recommending Sick Leave policy and rules changes.

Social Committee: The Social Committee promotes social activities to engage members in association.

SPARKS Committee: The SPARKS Committee is a teacher leadership program.

Special Education Committee: The Special Education Committee will be charged with reviewing and training current issues in Special Education and sharing best practices with membership.

Tuition Reimbursement Taskforce: The Tuition Reimbursement Taskforce is a group charged with giving recommendations and providing solutions to make the benefit more equitable, accessible and functional for our members.

If you are interested in joining any committees listed above **click here** fill out the Committee Interest Form.



OPINION: SMALLER CLASS SIZES ALLOW TEACHERS TO CONNECT WITH STUDENTS AND ACHIEVE MORE

By Mark Naydan

Larger classroom sizes are not only more difficult for teachers to manage, but they also have been proven to make it more difficult for students to learn.

Recently, when U.S. Secretary of Education Betsy DeVos advocated for super-sizing classroom sizes, teachers like me were outraged. It's clear Secretary DeVos has NEVER worked with students in a classroom before. Otherwise, she would not have said that.

Smaller classes allow teachers more time to teach to students so that students can learn more. That's why Prince George's County educators, parents, and faith leaders are joining together to reclaim our schools. Anyone who spends time with kids knows that each kid is unique. They bring unique experiences, preparation and ways of learning.

When I look across my classrooms, I see my students who are looking to me to help prepare them for college and the bigger world ahead of them. When people like Betsy DeVos and others who want to increase class sizes look at a classroom, they only see dollar signs where our children are—commodities to be squeezed through budget cuts or exploited for profit.

Research Is Clear

While the evidence is plain to see in anecdotes from teachers like me, the long record of research on the benefits of class size is clear:

Smaller class sizes have been shown to help close the racial achievement gap, particularly for early elementary students, so that children can all be on an equal footing as they begin their school career.

Smaller class sizes do not only benefit younger children. The impact can be felt throughout the educational system. Research shows that smaller class sizes are associated with higher high school graduation rates, higher college entrance test-taking rates, and reduced disciplinary actions taken against students, leading to fewer incarcerations.

Smaller class sizes allow more intensive instructional time and enable teachers to reach every kid and inspire them to reach new heights. Larger class sizes make such approaches to teaching impossible.

Though we spend a lot of formative time with students, teachers have only a finite amount of time to reach students each day to capture their attention away from the latest viral video or lunchroom gossip, and to focus them on the lesson at hand. The class is over very quickly with students bounding off to their next subject or afterschool practice. The distractions and difficulty managing a large crowd grow exponentially with class size.

It is not just our classrooms that are becoming more crowded. Jammed hallways, crowded playgrounds, congested parking lots, and ever-longer lunch lines, starting mid-morning are becoming commonplace to accommodate the ever-larger student populations.

Click here to continue reading.

Mark Naydan teaches social studies at Northwestern High School in Prince George's County.



END OF THE YEAR

**MEMBER
APPRECIATION
DAY**

**SATURDAY
JUNE 15, 2019
5:35 PM**

\$8 PER ENTRY | FREE MEAL | FIREWORKS | RAFFLES

Baysox VS. Trenton Thunder

Purchase deadline:
June 12th @11: 59 PM
To purchase tickets visit:
<http://groupmatics.events/PGCEA>



[Click here to purchase tickets](#)

EDUCATION BAZAAR



COLLECTION

COLLECTION DATES:

START: MAY 14, 2019
Every Monday- Thursday
in June, July, August

DROP-OFF LOCATION:

PGCEA CENTER
8008 Marlboro Pike
Forestville, MD 20747

- Did you receive a promotion and no longer need your classroom materials?
- Are you retiring?
- Do you have classroom materials you no longer want?
- Are you changing careers and no longer need your classroom materials?

If you answered "yes" bring us your gently used materials during the summer

If you have any questions contact
Portia Deal
(301) 616-6712 OR Pdeal6345@gmail.com

THANKS IN ADVANCE FOR YOUR DONATION!



Ratification VOTE is open until
June 12th until 5:00 PM!!!!!!

UPCOMING EVENTS

6/13/19

CIVIC ACADEMY: COMMUNITY SCHOOL



Thursday, June 13, 2019 | 4:30 pm
Cora L. Rice Elementary School
950 Nalley Rd, Landover, MD 20785

[Click here](#) to RSVP

6/15/19

END OF THE YEAR MEMBER APPRECIATION DAY

Saturday, June 15, 2019 | 5:35 pm
Bowie Baysox Stadium
4101 Crain Highway, Bowie, MD 20716



[Click here](#) to RSVP



**Ratification VOTE is open until
June 12th until 5:00 PM!!!!!!**