

Dear Fellow MCEA Member:

Educator unions across the country are under attack. And in the wake of a deeply disappointing and misguided Supreme Court decision earlier this week, well-funded anti-union special interests are stepping up their efforts to strip of us our collective power.

We cannot let them win.

In *Janus vs. AFSCME*, a conservative majority of the Court ruled 5-4 that unions of government employees will now be prohibited from collecting so-called "agency fees." These fees have been used to ensure that non-members who benefit from the collective bargaining agreements negotiated by unions pay at least something – their fair share – in return for their representation at the table.

In coming days, you may hear from people encouraging you to drop your membership in the MCEA. Indeed, we know of "drop campaigns" already underway in Montgomery County and other counties in Maryland. Please let us know if you are contacted by anti-union activists so we can respond quickly and decisively. We hope you will join us in saying "NO" to these tactics and remain an active and engaged MCEA member.

In order for us to be a strong and effective organization for ourselves, our profession and our students, we need every one of us to stand united. We are proud of our work together. MCEA has one of the strongest negotiated agreements with a school district in Maryland. Montgomery County educators are the highest paid in the state, and we enjoy a seat at the table for many school district decisions critical to our work. We have these top tier benefits because of you – a large and dedicated membership.

This year we won several key victories. We were able to restore the "lost step" on the pay scale for our members who were employed by MCPS in FY2012. We obtained refunds for wrongly imposed tobacco attestation charges. We worked to address problems with the school calendar. And last Tuesday, we helped dozens of "Apple Ballot" recommended candidates who are strong supporters of public education win their primary races at the state and local levels.

In these volatile times, your membership in our union affords you significant job protections that nonmembers don't receive. It is critical that we stand united as we work to reestablish a culture of true partnership and collaboration with MCPS. And we should remember that in places where anti-union attacks have been successful, like Wisconsin, educators' wages and benefits have decreased. We must not and will not allow that to happen here.

This summer, we will be reaching out to MCEA members across the county via email, phone, and in person to talk about our work and our vision for the future. We look forward to speaking with you and hearing how we can work together to make our union even stronger. If you have any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to reach out.

If you want to help with our outreach program over the summer, click the following links.

MCEA Union Summer 2018

Do you want to help strengthen our union this summer? Need some extra spending money? Love talking to new people? MCEA is looking for member leaders interested in engaging and organizing colleagues over the summer. Participants in the **MCEA Union Summer 2018** program will receive training, coaching and support as they engage new and not-so-new educators in Montgomery County. Want to learn more about Union Summer or interested in participating? [Click here to fill out an interest survey.](#)

Support New Educator Orientation

NEO is just around the corner, and this year for our union things will be different. We need volunteers to help make this year's NEO more successful than ever. Whether you're in your first or 50th year of teaching, use your voice to engage and inspire educators new to the profession and those new to the county. NEO will be held at two different locations over two days, August 21 & 22. If you're interested in helping with NEO, please [complete the following interest survey](#).

In Unity,

Montgomery County Education Association Board of Directors