

PTA AND THE PRINCIPAL

by Sam Macer, Parent Involvement Chair

The principal of each school is like the CEO of a corporation and generally speaking the “buck stops” at the principal’s door. From a parent perspective we tend to hold the principal accountable for student performance just as we would hold a CEO accountable for the business performance of the corporation.

We are very fortunate that principals in Baltimore County Public Schools embrace the concept of parent and community involvement. Principals support the national, state and local policies, which welcome parents to be active partners in increasing academic achievement.

Principals or their designee are full members of the PTA board of directors. They should be supported and encouraged to suggest meaningful opportunities to invite parents into the schools.

Parents and PTAs may want to consider asking the principal for an hour or so each week to have an open period when parents can sign up to have private conversations with the principal. There are many parents who do not feel comfortable addressing an issue during an open forum such as a PTA meeting. Recent emigrants and shy parents may need that one-on-one private time.

Ask the principal if he or she would network with their peers to share some of the best practices for increasing parent involvement. The principal can then share the information at a general PTA meeting. Keep in mind that principals invite positive PTA participation. Every effort should be made to have a positive and productive PTA/principal relationship.