

## **Individual Pioneer**

**Patricia B. O'Neill** has had a lengthy and distinguished career advocating for students and public education. She was a longtime Parent Teacher Association activist in the Walt Whitman Cluster, and served in various volunteer and leadership roles, prior to being elected to the Board of Education in 1998. She is currently serving her fifth four-year term on the Board of Education. She has served as Board president and vice president five times. Mrs. O'Neill currently serves as chair of the Board's Policy Management Committee and is vice chairperson of the Montgomery County Public Schools Educational Foundation. Mrs. O'Neill is past president of the Maryland Association of Boards of Education and past co-chair of the Washington Area Boards of Education. She is widely respected by her Board colleagues, the superintendent, staff and elected officials. She is adept at working behind the scenes to ensure that the needs of students are met and the larger goals of the Board are fulfilled. Her insights and understanding of education issues, as well as her institutional knowledge, are superb. By the end of 2018, she will have served a total of 20 years as an elected Board member. She is the second longest serving member of the Board and the longest serving woman.