

DRAFT MINUTES OF THE MCCPTA BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING  
Monday, August 28, 2006 at the Carver Educational Services Center  
(Emergency meeting called to discuss Policy CNA.)

ATTENDANCE:

Officers: Jane de Winter, Victor Salazar, Sharon St.Pierre, Cassandra Abdelmeguid, April Keyes, Juan Johnson, Kay Romero, Liz Wheeler

Area Vice Presidents and Cluster Coordinators: Andrea Bernardo, Brenda Martin, Jim Keenan, Pam Moomau, Carroll Lovelace, Steve Augustino, Paula Robinson, Carley Lee, Deborah DeMille-Wagman, Sally Taber, Deborah Stevens-Panzer, Susan Stavenhagen, John F. Hall, Jr., Elizabeth Enders, Jaime Todaro, Kristin Tribble, Karen Smith, Ricky Ford, Jinhee Wilde, Steve Crowley, Rich Edelman, Alies Muskin, Linda Kuserk, Paul Morrison, Donna Pfeiffer, Ted Willard, Ellen Paul

Committee Chairs: Diane Dickson, Jennifer Zoronis, Neal Meyerson, Patti Twigg, Sharon Schulman

OPENING BUSINESS:

Call to Order: MCCPTA President Jane de Winter called the emergency meeting to order at 8:02 PM.

AGENDA ITEM: Policy CNA

The President distributed copies of the Superintendent's recommendations for revisions to the Board of Education policy on distribution of informational material and announcements. The Board of Education Policy Committee meets August 30 for both a closed and then an open session. Next, the Board of Education meets, followed by their retreat. Action could be taken by Wednesday afternoon. Action could take effect on Wednesday night or Thursday. All eight board members must be present and all must agree to the emergency status of the situation to eliminate the 21 day comment period. The policy must be adapted unanimously.

Lengthy discussion by many participants to determine MCCPTA response to the superintendent's proposed changes to Policy CNA.

Rich Edelman made a motion that:

1. MCCPTA will urge MCPS to revise the policy CNA on an emergency basis so that MCCPTA and PTAs and PTSAs will be afforded unrestricted distribution of newsletters, flyers and other materials.
2. MCCPTA will urge MCPS to comprehensively consider the substance of policy CNA in defining other community groups in accordance with the Court of Appeals decision in CEF vs MCPS.

It was seconded.

Jane de Winter made a friendly amendment to add "Board of Directors" at the beginning of both paragraphs.

Discussion of the motion included: These points will be incorporated in a letter from the MCCPTA President to Dr. West and the Board of Education members to be delivered tomorrow in person and by e-mail.

Deborah DeMille-Wagman made an amendment to change the second paragraph to read, "Notwithstanding the above in referencing the first opinion, MCCPTA urges MCPS to comprehensively further consider the policy amended this day in light of the decision in ACLU vs Mote. It was seconded.

Discussion of this amendment showed no support for it, concluded that the legal language needn't be crafted into the letter and that a "broad brush" is better.

Steve Augustino made an amendment to include adding, "as they have in the past" to the end of the first point and take out "unrestricted". It was seconded and passed by a unanimous voice vote.

Discussion included incorporating language from Dr. Weast's recommended revisions.

The amended motion reads:

1. The Board of Directors of MCCPTA will urge MCPS to revise the policy CNA: Informational Materials and Announcements on an emergency basis so that MCCPTA and PTAs and PTSAs will be afforded distribution of newsletters, flyers and other materials as they have in the past.
2. The Board of Directors of MCCPTA will urge MCPS to comprehensively consider the substance of policy CNA: Informational Materials and Announcements in defining other community groups in accordance with the Court of Appeals decision in CEF vs MCPS.

A vote for a letter to be written by the MCCPTA President including the original motion as amended was passed unanimously by a voice vote.

Ted Willard made a motion to support the distribution of materials four times a year by groups other than the PTA. It was seconded.

Discussion of the motion included: dilution; tacit approval for PTA/PTSA to only have four times a year distribution; focus on unrestricted access; remaining silent on the frequency of distribution; the possibility of not revisiting Policy CNA; and perception of PTA as an elitist group.

Ted Willard moved to table his motion. It was seconded. It passed by a voice vote. (It was subsequently noted that a motion to table doesn't require a vote.)

Ted Willard made a motion that the MCCPTA Board of Directors supports other parent organizations having the ability to send fliers in a manner similar to PTAs and PTSAs provided that the Board of Education can craft a policy in accordance with the Court of Appeals decision. It was seconded.

Discussion of this motion included: statements of non-support; supporting idea of access without being specific as to how much access; PTA as an elitist group; presenting this motion to the delegate assembly; presumptions of knowing what other groups think; NAACP Parent Council testimony from Board of Education public comment from Thursday, August 24 as read by President; development of comprehensive policy of previous motion; definition of community groups; and recognizing that schools have many groups. The conclusion of the discussion was to have the letter include an introduction, points one and two, and acknowledge other community groups. The letter to the Board should conclude that PTAs, PTSAs, and MCCPTA recognize that there are many other school based and community groups doing valuable work in our schools. Point number two should convey the spirit of the purposes of PTA. Our Board of Directors fully expects that the Board of Education will find an equitable solution.

Ted Willard tabled the motion himself.

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting was adjourned at 9:33 PM.