

MINUTES OF THE MCCPTA BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

Thursday, November 5, 2009 at Carver Education Services Center

ATTENDANCE:

Officers: Kay Romero, Kristin Tribble, Rebecca Smondrowski, Carol Salsbury, DeBora King, Patti Twigg

Area Vice Presidents, Cluster Coordinators & Committee Chairs: Andrea Q. Bernardo, Steve Augustino, Priscilla Peterson, Ted Willard, Mary Abe, Susan Young, Pam Moomau, Laurie Halverson, Linda B. White, Terri Salus, Jennifer Cope, Deborah Goldman, Sally Taber, Lee Ann Doerflinger, Virginia Twombly, Dawn Dolan, Merry Eisner, Lara Turner, Jen Pories, Dawn Trahern, Juan Johnson, Beth Kennington, Paul Morrison, Kevin Farragher, Kevin David

OPENING BUSINESS:

Call to Order: MCCPTA President, Kay Romero, called the meeting to order at 7:45 PM. A quorum was present.

Agenda: A motion was made to add the following items to the agenda: Magruder Cluster Gazette Article topic, A fundraising web-based opportunity Federal Campaign for matching funds, Growth policy. Motion passed to approve the agenda as amended.

October Minutes: – Merry Eisner made a motion to approve minutes as presented. Motion passed on voice vote.

Treasurer's Report: In Jaimie Jacobson's absence, Kay advised the board to send Jaimie an e-mail with any questions. The Treasurer's report will be filed for audit.

Kay distributed Delegates cards for BOD members and the correspondence folder. Kay also noted that the MCCPTA president activities were listed on the back of the agenda and asked if there were any questions.

OFFICER REPORTS:

Office - Kay Romero announced that the Blue Book is off to the printers. We budgeted for \$4,000, and we cut back and made some adjustments - now the amount is down to \$2,500. We are hopeful that it will be ready by testimony time. Kay also discussed cost saving measures being done in the MCCPTA Office.

Educational Issues - Kristin Tribble advised that if anyone has questions about CIP testimonies to email Steve Augustino.

Programs - Carol Salsbury stated that the Technology program at the last Delegates Assembly was well received. This month's program will be on the Math Curriculum.

Legislation - Rebecca Smondrowski thanked everyone for coming out to the Legislative Dinner. Rebecca introduced the idea of having legislative updates at Delegates Assemblies. Background was given as to why this was not practical and why Delegates approved the motion from 2005 mandating that DAs begin at 7:30 and business be conducted first. It was suggested that the legislative committee hold committee meetings and bring speakers in to speak to the committee and invite others to attend.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Bylaws Committee - Andrea Q. Bernardo stated that the bylaws committee is currently reviewing the bylaws to make conforming changes and working to get the amendments in for next spring.

CIP Committee - Steve Augustino announced that the Superintendent's Recommended CIP Budget was released on the 28th, and Kristin sent an e-mail of the schedule for the November testimony. This Saturday there will be a testimony writing workshop. Testimony will include a focus on HVAC, and we should work up a strategy to take advantage of construction market – the Board of Education is very supportive. We need to get people to fill the room on November 11th and 12th. The proposed budget for HVAC is \$15 million to stay through the six year CIP. Clarksburg will stay in moratorium.

This is a great time to build given the reduced construction costs for projects that weren't already bid Last year and this year, projects are coming in at about 30% lower. Steve is recommending that we say "Let's do more if we can do more."

MCCPTA sent a letter to Dr. Weast about the school modernizations that were planned and the schedule related to the construction bidding for these projects. MCCPTA asked for an update as to which projects could be bid out sooner to take advantage of the construction market being down. The reply from Dr. Weast to MCCPTA only discussed projects already planned and contained no new information. The letter from MCCPTA and Dr. Weast's reply is on the MCCPTA website.

There is a proposal for the Tilden Middle School modernization to involve renovating the old Woodward facility and the old Woodward facility would then become a holding facility.

The process for getting the projects ready for bid is taking 18 months to 2 years. Gaithersburg HS cannot be bid until the spring of 2011. Steve is trying to find out why it takes so long.

Operating Budget Committee - Pam Moomau pointed out that we need to be aware that there could be a trade-off between funding for the capital budget and funding for the operating budget, as funding for both ultimately comes from the same sources. This goes

beyond the MOE issue to the fact that Montgomery County has a choice over how much to devote to bonding authority and how much to devote to operating budget needs.

Maintenance of Effort Ruling – Last spring the county requested a waiver of the amount of funds the county itself has to provide. They didn't get the waiver. The attorney general ruled that it did not meet maintenance of effort. There could be a big fine. The County Council and the Executive are appealing this. The state aid will be forfeit if we do not meet the Maintenance of Effort. If we get Maintenance of Effort level money from the county government, we would be able to fund all of our programs at the same level they are affected now – if we don't we will see ourselves having cuts. Kay and Pam have been sitting in on operating budget meetings. The first phase is complete, and there will be follow up meetings. Pam urges everyone to turn out on first Monday in January for the Operating Budget Forum.

Safety Committee – Laurie Halverson announced that the Anti-bully policy is now out, and we have until January 18th to turn in any comments we have. Laurie advised the Board of Directors to take time to read the policy, and if you send comments to please copy her. Kay clarified that our members drive our position as an organization. Kay has been working with the Board of Education trying to get parents on the regulation workgroup. Parents are not mentioned as being a part of regulation workgroups. Final action will be taken on March 9th. The MCCPTA Safety Committee Chair, Laurie Halverson, and Emily Sudbrink represented MCCPTA on the workgroup for the policy.

Laurie mentioned an idea – an EFO brought up that most portables are identified with small numbers. But Rocky Hill Middle School put large, bold numbers on each side so that if emergency crews need to get there, they can see it from every direction. MCPS turned down the idea to do it at every school. Laurie will find out more about identifying the portables and get pictures to get a look at what Rocky Hill has and post it on the Bulletin as something PTAs might want to consider doing.

The artificial turf versus natural turf forum was held, and 45 people attended. There are a lot of issues involved and Laurie has a lot of materials. There are concerns about \$10,000 versus \$5,000 in costs. For modernized High Schools they are planning to put in all artificial turf fields. Kay suggested that Laurie make materials and links available to the Board.

OLD BUSINESS:

March Minutes: Laurie Halverson proposed examining the wording in the March 9, 2009 BOD minutes. Upon discussion, the minutes were amended as follows: The entire text of the proposed amendments brought by Joe Stewart from the Bylaws committee was inserted into the minutes. The wording preceding that section was amended to read: "Below are the recommended changes to the bylaws from the committee." Immediately following the insertion, this sentence was inserted: "After discussion, the Board voted to send the items below to the DA for a vote." The amended minutes were approved on a

voice vote. Merry Eisner made a motion to approve the March 2009 BOD minutes as amended. Motion passed on voice vote.

Committee Restructure: Merry Eisner made a motion to include the Special Events committee as a non-standing Administrative committee. Motion passed on voice vote. There was discussion about the voting body. Under the committee restructure, people who could previously vote at the Delegates Assembly now cannot vote because they are not all members of the Board of Directors. Andrea will take it back to her bylaws committee to develop language to clarify Article XII (Voting Body).

NEW BUSINESS:

Northeast Consortium & Sherwood AVP: Patti Twigg proposed consolidating the Northeast Consortium and Sherwood Cluster AVP position. The proposal is to have the Northeast Consortium AVP also represent the Sherwood Cluster and eliminate the Sherwood Cluster AVP (which is currently vacant). There being no objections, Patti will draft the language and put a motion forth to the Delegates Assembly.

Magruder Cluster Gazette Article: Two Magruder students, who pled guilty to raping another Magruder student, were allowed to attend school while awaiting sentencing. Adult court said that the students could not go back to school, but the judge in juvenile court said they could. Once this happened there was an outcry by parents. There was discussion about finding the glitch between the court system and the school system. Dawn Trahern requested we try to figure out what we can do to make a more consistent policy in legislation because COMAR does not have it. She informed us that the Magruder Cluster is working to gather more information and will report back to the Board.

Fundraising idea for Non-Profit Organizations: Rebecca Smondrowski discussed that two schools in Montgomery County use a “click through” fundraising tool. It works independently when added to websites. The organization gets a percentage of the purchases bought through anyone who follows the link from their website. Kay suggested that Rebecca send her more information to see what we can do.

Federal Campaign for Matching Funds: Merry Eisner was asked by a PTA in the Churchill Cluster to do some research on an opportunity to give money to charities where any local PTA can sign up and get matching funds. If any PTAs are interested, there is a simple government process. As PTAs, we can/are allowed to sign up. Merry will find the link and send it to Kay and Patti for posting.

Growth Policy: There was discussion on the County Council vote to stay at the 105% versus 110%.

Student Board Member Inquiry: Tim Hwang wants to advocate for what the student board member may do. He wants to propose to be able to increase student privileges, including full voting rights like every other voting member. Kay informed Tim that she

would bring it to the Board for feedback. The Board consensus is that we are pleased with the energy and effort the student member has about educational issues, but takes no stand given this is a one year term and the fact that the position is held by a minor as well as gives more right to a student than parents have.

NAACP Parent's Council Inquiry: In order to increase their visibility, a representative from the NAACP Parent's Council asked that we adjust our bylaws and that there be a representative on our board so that local PTAs will follow suit. There was discussion that according to the MCCPTA Bylaws, the council may not dictate to local PTAs. In addition, it was discussed that if we include an NAACP Representative on the Board of Directors, we must also consider representatives from other separate entities, such as Asian, Latino, and other cultural entities. Finally, the point was raised that if we are one voice for every child that it is redundant to adopt another organization with its sole focus geared toward African American children.

ANNOUNCEMENT:

There are six more seats available for the Committee for Montgomery Breakfast at the Bethesda Marriott on December 14th at 7:00 a.m.

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting was adjourned at 9:38 PM.

Respectfully submitted by
DeBora King, Recording Secretary BOD