

Minutes MCCPTA Delegates Assembly
February 24, 2009
Carver Educational Service Center

From 6:30-7:30, Dr. Susan W. Hammond & Gwendolyn J. Mason presented a program entitled “Special Education in MCPS: Diverse Learners & Individualized Programs.”

After the program ended, and before calling the meeting to order, the Wellness Workgroup conducted a survey of the members.

The Meeting was called to order at 7:47 pm. A quorum was present.

Merry Eisner, VP Education, read the PTA Mission.

Liz Wheeler, VP Administration, announced that the following schools had not yet paid MCCPTA dues, and Delegates from those schools were not eligible to vote at the Delegates Assembly (DA):

Brookhaven
Burnt Mills
East Silver Spring
Watkins Mill
Weller Road
Gaithersburg ES
Harmony Hills

Liz Wheeler then asked if anyone from any of those schools was present: no one responded.

MCCPTA President Kay Romero introduced Vicki Rafel as Parliamentarian and went over the information that was in the Delegate’s folders to be taken back to their school PTAs to share.

The Agenda was approved, as amended by including a motion to be introduced by Magruder Delegates under New Business.

The January Minutes were approved as presented.

Treasurer's Report. Dale Ryan, Treasurer, presented the Budget. She indicated that income was less than expenditures, but that there were sufficient funds in reserve. Expenses are on target. MCCPTA has leased a new photocopier, resulting in cutting monthly maintenance costs. MCCPTA has received its letter from the state certifying that it is a charitable organization through 12/31/09. Locals need to file 990 forms with the state.

Officer Reports

Rebecca Smondrowski, VP Legislation, reported on this year's strategy for Annapolis. She has organized weekly trips during the legislative session for smaller groups divided by cluster. Future dates are: 3/4, 3/18, and 3/25 in the mornings. Carpools should leave by 8:30 am. She urged delegates to attend and to pass the information to the schools. Meetings with the state delegates are scheduled for 9:30 am, and the legislative session begins at 10:00 am. The MCCPTA visitors are announced from the House and Senate floors. Rebecca can set up meetings with state Delegates and Senators, as well as tours of the capital. The purpose of the visits is to let legislators know that MCCPTA cares about what they are doing to express support for delivering full funding to MCPS programs. The Board of Education and the County Council have urged this advocacy in Annapolis.

Jeanne Ellinport, Legislative Committee member, indicated that the budget and implementing slots are the most significant issues this session. She indicated that the list of significant bills would be put on the website.

Rebecca Smondrowski further reported that she and Kay Romero had testified in Annapolis with regard to the Capital Improvement Program and Aging Schools Program. Another parent stated that she has testified with regard to peanut allergy legislation.

Delegates were urged to volunteer to give testimony. However, they were cautioned that they should not state they represent MCCPTA on positions unless authorized to do so. MCCPTA testimonies are on the website.

Liz Wheeler, VP Administration, reminded delegates that locals' by-laws needed to be current. She announced that CIP testimony before the County Council on February 10 had been scheduled hastily and thanked everyone for their participation. She announced that Operating Budget testimony

before the County Council is scheduled for April 15 and 16. Time slots for clusters will be posted. Individuals are also allowed to testify.

Steve Augustino, CIP Chair, encouraged everyone to attend meetings in Annapolis because the budget is the most important issue this year. The MCCPTA is using every effort to get \$200 million in construction funding. He indicated that it is unclear how much stimulus money the county will be getting. He pointed out there is \$4 billion for energy efficiency that could be used to retrofit schools and there is additional funding through the U.S. Department of Education. He urged delegates to e-mail him with ideas.

Pam Moomau, Operating Budget Chair, reported on changes in the Operating Budget based on the stimulus. Title I funding increased \$6.1 million and MCPS will increase the number of Title I schools from 15 to 18, adding Rosemont, Brown Station and Watkins Mill. In addition, IDEA funding increased, and MCPS will increase full-day head start at 21 schools in FY 10. Proposed Special Education funding cuts for FY 2010 will be restored in the next budget with IDEA funding. The MCPS website can provide more details. In addition, federal stimulus funds should result in Governor O'Malley supporting full GCEI funding, which should, in turn, result in \$22 million for Montgomery County. In addition, the State made an error in calculating Thornton funding last year. This should result in \$23.7 million more for the county. However, because the budget projections for 2011 are low, those funds may be put toward reserves.

Joe Stewart, By-laws Committee Chair, reported that MCCPTA by-laws revisions will be presented at the next Board of Directors Meeting and will be voted on by the Delegates in April.

New Business

Steven Augustino introduced the CIP Committee Motion. After discussion, including several endorsements and one statement in opposition, the resolution passed as amended to clarify a redundancy.

Resolution on the FY 2010 Capital Improvement Program Budget From the MCCPTA CIP Committee

WHEREAS, on November 20, 2008, the Montgomery County Board of Education approved a FY 2010 Capital Budget appropriation request totaling

\$200.7 million and an amended FY 2009–2014 Capital Improvements Program (CIP) request totaling \$1.3 billion;

WHEREAS, the FY 2010 Capital Budget appropriation request assumes the availability of sufficient funding sources from the state and county budgets, including \$40 million in state school construction funding;

WHEREAS, in this fiscal environment, the availability of sufficient funding is subject to significant uncertainty; and

WHEREAS, the projects planned in the FY 2010 Capital Budget appropriation request and the amended FY 2009-2014 Capital Improvements Program would provide critical school additions, modernizations and other improvements to provide students with safe, secure and adequate learning facilities;

THEREFORE, the MCCPTA RESOLVES:

THAT the County and State should provide adequate funding to ensure that the FY 2010 Capital Budget appropriation request and the amended FY 2009-2014 Capital Improvements Program may proceed forward as planned;

THAT the State should provide school construction funding to the County in an amount of at least \$40 million;

THAT the County and the Board of Education should strive to reconcile any gap in available funding so as not to harm the educational opportunities provided to all students or to threaten the health, safety or welfare of students;

THAT in the event adequate funds are not available in FY 2010, MCCPTA supports prioritizing available funds to ensure that planned school additions and modernizations are not delayed; and

THAT MCCPTA further supports prioritizing available funds to ensure that the HVAC Replacement, Roof Replacement, Restroom Renovation, Building Modifications and Program Improvements and Planned Life Cycle Asset Replacement county-wide projects may proceed without delay.

Merry Eisner introduced a resolution expressing opposition to school system pilots without appropriate parent notice and input. The resolution passed as read.

Resolution on School System Pilots

Whereas, The National PTA adopted a resolution in 1990 titled "The Commercial Exploitation of Students in School"; and

Whereas, The National PTA Executive Committee adopted in 1991 "National Principles for Corporate Involvement in the Schools"; and

Whereas, In February, 2008 Montgomery County Public Schools Transportation Department entered into a pilot program with BusRadio; and

Whereas, In December 2008, the Montgomery County Public Schools Transportation Department requested parent participation in a proposed workgroup to review BusRadio for possible expansion to all school buses in the county; and

Whereas, A pilot program of BusRadio was already in progress for approximately 10 months before parents were asked by the school system to participate in the workgroup; therefore be it

Resolved, that the Montgomery County Council of PTAs will not support any school pilot programs for students that omit parental input and feedback before any pilot programs begin, and be it

Resolved, that parental input and feedback gathered by MCPS will be done in languages spoken in school communities.

Susan Thomas and Ted Willard, on behalf of the Gifted Child Committee introduced a Resolution on Accelerated and Enriched Instruction. The Resolution will be voted on at the March Delegates Assembly. Clarifying questions were asked by many Delegates.

**Proposed Resolution on Accelerated and Enriched Instruction from the
MCCPTA Gifted Child Committee**

Whereas:

MCPS Strategic Plan states that “A high-quality education is the fundamental right of every child.”

MCCPTA believes that, to ensure that right, every child should be appropriately challenged in accordance with his or her academic ability, motivation and interests.

MCCPTA passed a *Resolution on Mathematics* on April 24, 2001, a *Resolution on Wider Use of the Methodologies Used in Magnet Programs* on January 24, 2006, and a *Resolution on Gifted and Talented Curriculum in Middle Schools* on April 25, 2006.

The MCPS Office of Accelerated and Enriched Instruction is working on recommended changes to *Policy IOA: Gifted and Talented Education* for the MCPS Board of Education's consideration in 2009.

Therefore be it Resolved:

MCPS must identify students who need additional academic challenge beyond that which is provided to similar aged peers.

MCPS must continue to provide global screening for all students in grade 2 to identify students who need additional academic challenge.

MCPS must provide additional screenings throughout elementary school, middle school and high school to identify students who need additional academic challenge.

MCPS must inform parents when their children need additional academic challenge and must inform parents how MCPS will ensure that those needs are met.

MCPS must provide students who need additional academic challenge with instruction that is accelerated and enriched.

MCPS must ensure that accelerated and enriched instruction is delivered consistently and with fidelity in every school across the county.

MCPS must ensure that students are given the opportunity to work in groups of students with similar academic abilities, motivation, and interests.

MCPS must provide curriculum resources and professional development to teachers and administrators to ensure that students are provided with accelerated and enriched instruction in accordance with research-based best practices.

MCPS must monitor the implementation and effectiveness of accelerated and enriched instruction by collecting, analyzing, monitoring and publishing key data measuring student participation and performance in grades K-12 in all core subject areas.

Laura Siegel, on behalf of the Churchill Cluster, introduced a Motion on Curricular Fees to be voted on at the March Delegates Assembly. The Motion follows:

Motion Regarding Curricular Fees

Students are entitled to a free public education. As MCPS and the Board of Education review changes to the policies and/or procedures regarding curricular fees, MCCPTA wants to ensure that these changes do not result in any reduction in the level of services as it relates to any of the following:

- 1- the quality of instruction,
- 2- the quality of the curriculum,
- 3- the assortment of course offerings,
- 4- the level of student achievement.

MCCPTA, parents and students should be notified of any proposed changes to policies and/or procedures regarding curricular fees. These stakeholders should have an opportunity to provide public comment before any new procedures are put into place.

Joe Stewart, on behalf of the Magruder HS PTSA, introduced a motion on Delegates' duties at Delegates Assemblies to be voted on at the March Delegates Assembly.

**Proposed Resolution on the Duties of MCCPTA Delegates
as approved by Magruder High School PTSA on February 17, 2009**

Whereas, when the MCCPTA Delegates are aware of the desired will of the PTA on a particular matter scheduled for consideration before the MCCPTA, the Delegates are required (by Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised, 10th Edition—Duties of Delegates, page 586) to represent the will of the PTA with their votes, even if it is different from their personal position on the matter.

Be it resolved, that in cases where the will of the PTA is not clear, or if revisions are proposed that alter the particular matter being considered, the Delegates are expected to use their best judgment to vote in a manner that is consistent with the will of the PTA as established at a PTA meeting.

Kay Romero asked whether Delegates favored a May Delegates Assembly. The Delegates voted not to hold an Assembly in May.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 9:35 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Andrea Q. Bernardo, Secretary, Board of Directors