

MCCPTA Board of Directors Meeting

Minutes

December 13, 2018

Gaithersburg Middle School

Call to Order: MCCPTA President Lynne Harris called meeting to order at 7:10 pm; quorum (24) was reached at 7:57pm.

Members present: Officers - Lynne Harris, Cynthia Simonson, Erin Clegg, Daria Daniel, Khristy Kartsakalis, Tracie Potts and Laura Stewart. See attendance sign-in for other members present.

MCPS FY 2020 OPERATING BUDGET PRESENTATION – MCPS CFO Nicky Diamond

Nicky Diamond gave a presentation and update on the MCPS FY 2020 Budget which totals \$2.65 billion, a \$55 million or 2 percent increase over FY 2019. She gave an overall framework since the Superintendent would be officially releasing the budget next week.

General Themes

- Students/Classrooms/Schools – Stay the course. Take promising practices and do more. Continue to do what’s working and tackle what’s not so all students have some opportunity.
- Core Values – Learning, Relationships, Respect, Excellence and Equity

Key Bodies of Work

- Improve programs – new curriculum
- Increase Access to Strong Academic and Career Opportunities
- Extended Learning – 2 schools (Roscoe Nix ES and Arcola ES) will have school year extended by 30 days.
- Provide Language Opportunities – Dual Language in more ES
- Focus on Physical, Social and Psychological Well Being
- Hire and Retain an Effective and Diverse Workforce
- Strengthen Operational Excellence

Budget Process

- MCPS budget is based on data and community engagement and input
- Breakdown of FY 2019 – 66 percent from local funds; 27 percent from state of MD; 3 percent from federal government. 91 percent of MCPS budget goes to people/payroll and benefits.

Budget Drivers

- Enrollment and Growth
- Contracts and Continuing Salaries
- Benefits
- Inflation Rates

CFO Diamond noted that MD Governor Hogan plans to include \$1.4 billion for school construction in state budget.

Note: If you have questions you would like addressed at the December 18 budget unveiling, please send to Operating Budget Chair Laura Mitchell.

NEW BUSINESS

Operating Budget Forum – Operating Budget Chair Laura Mitchell noted that the Operating Budget Forum would be held on January 5 at Rockville High School beginning at 8:30am – noon; followed by the Kirwan Commission update. Lunch will be provided to those attending the Kirwan Commission session. Laura distributed a handout with dates of each cluster testimony date for the BOE operating budget hearings. Co-Chair Brian passed out flyer on January 5 forum.

Ad Hoc Committee Updates

- **Safe Water** – VP of Advocacy Laura Stewart provided the report on behalf of Chair Rebecca Morley. Committee has started work. Got an amendment to CIP for \$2 million to provide water bottle filling stations at all MCPS. Still need to be approved, so advocacy alert will be sent to Montgomery County Council to approve amendment.
- **Safe Stops and Routes** – Committee member Lisa London provided update on behalf of Chair Jason Sartori. Outreach to communities including PTA presentations by planning department and Vision Zero has begun. Committee in process of preparing materials for infrastructure improvement. Please send data from bus stops to Jason. Jason has also reached out to a MD state delegate to secure funding for schools for the Safe Stops and Routes Initiative.
- **Fields** – President Lynne Harris reported that the committee will be looking at all ES/MS/HS fields for safety. Recently held MCCPTA Presents with grass expert. Also, had Mike Riley, Director of Parks and Abe Garbenar?? at first meeting. Laura Stewart mentioned that MCPS Parks and Recreation staff will be taking over maintenance of fields at ES soon.
- **Student Business Challenge** – VP of Programs Erin Clegg and Nora described program. Opportunity for Middle School Students known as Junior Achievement. After school sessions will begin in third quarter and then competition will follow. Junior Achievement program is housed at Thomas Edison HS. Flyer will be sent out soon. Committee seeking \$4,000 budget to cover 40 middle schools; 10-30 students per school.

Approval of Agenda: The agenda was approved by consensus

Approval of Minutes: The minutes from the November 2018 BOD meeting were approved by consensus.

Acceptance of CC Resignation

Action Item: Ted Wu made a motion to accept the resignation of Clarksburg CC Likan Liang. Seconded by Laura Mitchell and it passed unanimously.

Approval of Damascus Cluster Coordinators

Action Item: Tracie Potts made a motion to approve the following Damascus Cluster Coordinators:

- Aimee Ibacache
- Kim Kamensky
- Leslie Cuneo

Seconded by Deirdre Appel and it passed unanimously.

Budget Amendment - Treasurer Khristy Kartsakalis

Treasurer Khristy Kartsakalis recommended that \$4,000 be added as budget line item for Student Business Challenge (SBC) to be taken from carry over funding for next year. Carryover amount is \$53,787.

Action Item: Laura Mitchell made a motion to add budget line item of \$4,000 for SBC. Seconded by Erin Clegg and passed unanimously.

Later, Khristy recommended adding budget line item for Operating Budget Forum food costs.

Action Item: Andrew Ross made a motion to add \$1,000 for January 5 Operating Budget Forum to cover food costs. Seconded by Cynthia Simonson and approved unanimously.

Mental Health and Wellness Forum – Chair Sunil Dasgupta

Mental Health and Wellness Committee Chair Sunil Dasgupta mentioned that the Mental Health and Wellness Forum will be held on January 12 at Earle Wood MS from 1-5pm. BOE member Jill Ortman Fouse will be the keynote speaker. There will be breakout sessions on:

- LGBTQ; opioids; stress and anxiety and teen depression
- Free Mental Health and 1st Aid training and Narcan training too
- Mock teen bedroom – parents only!

More information to follow, including on the Montgomery County Mental Health and Wellness Facebook page. Sunil is also seeking for volunteers with interest, passion and/or expertise in this area to work with him and perhaps take over forum in a few years.

School Climate and Safety – Gillian Huebner

Chair Gillian Huebner noted that focus on Damascus HS incident has brought community together with MCPS to develop plans in moving forward. MCPS touching base with athletic departments county-wide on creating healthy environment and protective behavior.

MCPS Director of School and Safety – Ed Clarke

Ed Clarke recently took over as director. He is a Wheaton HS graduate and previously worked for Montgomery County police department. He plans to focus on community policing.

- Get students involved
- Prevention and intervention
- Timely and responsive to community needs without compromising criminal investigations

Implementing New policy on HS lockdowns with options. National shift in analysis of situation.

- Avoid, Deny, Defend, Barricade – buying time until police arrive
- 6 statewide drills throughout school year; should receive email on drills
- School Resource Officers will all work 5 8-hour days versus 4 10-hour days
- MD Safe to Learn Act 2018 - \$20 million in grants for school safety available.
 - By June 2019 every school must have safe school evaluation and collect safety concerns.

MCPS Academic Schedules 2019/2020 – VP of Education Cynthia Simonson

VP of Education Cynthia Simonson discussed new curriculum roll out.

- **ES** – has new curriculum for English & Language Arts (ELA) and Math
 - MCPS sent message to families of affected schools on November 13
 - Three-year phase in process – Year 1 – Math (36 schools) – ELA (42 schools). Will be at all schools by year 3.
 - ELC – Literacy Curriculum – 30 schools have William and Mary, Junior Great books and Lucy Caulkins Writing program currently. Not sure if programs will continue with new curriculum rollout. Eight schools with ELC are in the Year 1 cohort.
- **MS** – has new curriculum ELA (20 schools) and Math (20 schools)
 - 19 schools introducing both ELA and Math curriculums at the same time.
 - Social Studies – lessons learned
 - Science – no changes anticipated
 - World Language – criteria not required except at IB MS
 - Electives – oversight from central office
- **HS** – Grade Level vs. Honors classes – what’s the difference?
 - Must show justification for eliminating on grade level courses
 - Math – completed Algebra I but did not pass PARCC with 3 or better. Now what happens to these students?

Cynthia will provide updates on new curriculum roll out in ES/MS and update on HS issues.

Announcements

- Awards Committee Chair is looking for at least one more member. Need to begin work in January to select Champion for Children Award winner. If you are interested in serving on the Awards Committee, please email Daria at bodsecretary@mccpta.org

Meeting was adjourned at 9:07pm

Submitted by Daria Daniel – MCCPTA BOD Secretary