

NOTES of the MCCPTA Board of Directors
Thursday, 01 February 2018 – 7PM
Carver Auditorium

President Lynne Harris called the meeting to order at 7:15pm. There was no quorum. The following announcements were made and issues not requiring votes discussed:

Emails/FB Workplace: Tracie explained that MCCPTA email is available to all members. The Executive Committee is also using Facebook Workplace to lesson email overload. The Facebook Workplace site was shown. A signup was circulated for interested members.

Office Manager: Pam Loebach is back 2 days a week, Mon/Wed 10-3. Ask for help! She's calling elected officials to follow up on questionnaires. She can help committees and clusters with events, space, documents, notices, copies.

Radio appearance: Lynne gave a shout-out to Safe Climate subcommittee chair Gillian Huebner for representing MCCPTA on KOJO re sexting in middle schools. Gillian says she has received a lot of emails in response.

Resignation: Quince Orchard Cluster Coordinator Ken Smondrowski resigned for business reasons. The board discussed the role of Cluster Coordinators with the new MCPS organizational structure starting July 1.

Interview panels: MCCPTA has been asked to provide representatives for several full and half-day interview panels. Volunteers are needed. See Lynne for details.

Office Space: MCCPTA is seeking new office space that's in a more convenient, central location with better access.

February Cluster Meetings: BCC's Feb. 8 meeting is planned. Cynthia Simonson suggested sharing agendas and documents/follow-up from those meetings to help new Cluster Coordinators in other clusters.

MDPTA Night in Annapolis (Feb. 8): Charisse Scott is our representative to Maryland PTA's Advocacy Committee to track legislation and keep MCCPTA updated. She encouraged people to participate but cautioned to come with a purpose and contact legislators in advance to let them know you're attending and ensure they're attending. Lynne explained it's a two-hour reception where legislators *may* stop by. The event takes place at 6 Bladen St, Room 170, 6-8pm. VP of Advocacy Neal Orringer will let our delegation know we'll be there. Three issues will be emphasized: the Kirwan Commission, a Constitutional Amendment on casino money, and local autonomy on issues such as the school calendar. MCCPTA will organize its own Legislative Night in Annapolis in March.

CIP Chair Laura Stewart will attend a 1pm hearing that day on covering the student portion of free/reduced lunch, sponsored by a Montgomery County delegate. She will share more information on the board e-list. Other pending legislation was discussed.

Minority Scholars “Call to Arms” flier: The wording of the flier was questioned by a parent as incendiary. The program director agreed and apologized. The parent was satisfied. Lynne called it to the board’s attention since we are financially supporting their spring event.

MCRSGA elections: After the Jan. 26 filing deadline, 18 candidates from 9 high schools have signed up to run for SMOB (Student Member of the Board). At the Feb. 22 convention candidates will be narrowed to 2. The election is at the end of April. A concern was raised whether high schools in disadvantaged areas aren’t participating due to transportation. MCPS provides transportation from all schools to vote at the convention. Cluster Coordinators should check with SGA leaders and sponsors to ensure they participate and request participation.

OFFICER AND COMMITTEE UPDATES

- **Health & Wellness Committee:** A countywide mental health and wellness forum is planned in conjunction with MCPS on Sunday, April 22, 1-5pm at Gaithersburg HS.
- **Nominating Committee:** Consider Executive Committee positions.
- **MCPS/Community communication:** The Rolling Terrace ES issue has raised concerns about how and when MCPS communicates with communities about boundary and program changes. The board is re-writing policy FAA-RA. Lynne has asked to have MCCPTA representatives on that committee, and a new one governing program decisions. The board is considering. MCCPTA will continue to push for including communities.
- **CIP Committee:** Montgomery County Council CIP hearings are next week Feb. 6 and 7. Some board members have signed up but more cluster representatives are needed. Written testimony is requested 2 days in advance. Bring 15 hard copies. Laura will update on the board e-list. Lynne emphasized that other areas come out in force so it’s important that our clusters are represented! You have 3 minutes – emphasize your most dire needs. Common messages should include that the budget request doesn’t include “extras” – we need it all, and parent engagement. Lynne noted that MCPS honored the OLO report on FACT scores, so the Council should honor our financial needs. Gillian Huebner suggested a clearer explanation of what’s at stake to “rally the troops” in our schools. The CIP is \$7 million more than the last CIP, but our population has increased more and we’re already behind.
- **VP of Educational Issues:** AP scores are out. SAT vouchers do not include the essay portion, which is optional but required by some colleges. Parents can pay the \$15 difference, but only 8 schools are using vouchers through the College Board process. 17 schools are setting up the SAT during the school day at their school and the essay option is not provided and it can’t be taken separately later. A coordinators meeting happens tomorrow. We’re asking that they make the essay option available. ASK your school how students can take the essay.
- **Treasurer:** Revisions cannot be voted on tonight due to lack of quorum. Review the proposal, which will be revised for the next meeting. We are currently under budget overall. Committee chairs and clusters are urged to think outside the box about how to use allocated funds.
- **Advocacy:** Candidate questionnaire responses are being compiled into an APP! Stay tuned for more info and access.

- **Awards:** Please see e-list posts and nominate!

The meeting adjourned at 8:47pm.

Notes by BOD Secretary Tracie Potts

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