

Montgomery County Council of Parent Teacher Association (MCCPTA)
Minutes of the Board of Directors meeting on May 1, 2008
in the Auditorium of the Carver Educational Services Center

Attendance: Officers: Jane de Winter, Kay Romero, Liz Wheeler, April Keyes, Dale Ryan, Stacy Menendez

AVPs and Cluster Coordinators and Committee Chairs: Steve Augustino, Tracy Fox, Jaimie Jacobson, Sonya Leaman, Donna Pfeiffer, Lee Ann Doerflinger, John Hall, Sharon Schulman, Sally Taber, Patti Twigg, Linda White, Paula Robinson, Deborah Goldman, Karen Smith, Jennifer Chambers, Kate Savage, Laurie Halverson, Janette Gilman, John Hall, Andrea Bernardo, Juan Johnson, Julie Lucas

25 in attendance, 25 needed for quorum, due to newly submitted bylaws to MDPTA. Quorum met.

Call to Order: 7:45 pm

Approval of Minutes

Changes to minutes:

Per Liz Wheeler - Please change the VP Admin section: to: "Liz sent the names of those who will testify to the listserv and circulated the testimony list tonight for attending BOD members to review." Also, add a location - "The Summer Leadership Conference will be held on July 26 at Anne Arundel Community College."

Minutes approved as amended at 7:52 pm.

Treasurer's Report

Still expecting membership dues from some locals.

Committee expenses need to be submitted as soon as possible.

MCCPTA dues & insurance payments list was distributed and will be posted on the MCCPTA website. There are some local units which have yet to pay the insurance dues.

In reference to the treasurer's report handed out, Cluster Coordinators should note the following:

If the membership total with MCCPTA is LOWER than what the state reports, make sure to collect dues for MCCPTA for the difference.

Locals need to make sure that they return their unused membership cards or they will be charged for those member dues.

Officers Reports:

President's – Jane de Winter

An invitation was extended to Ike Leggett to address the Board of Directors, but he declined.

Motion made by Sharon Shulman:

Since there is a quorum present at this meeting, all motions made in the past 2 meetings without quorums are to be ratified at this meeting.

Motion seconded. Motion approved at 8:05 pm.

Using Carver for Committee Meetings: At this time, we cannot use this space for our purposes. Committees

should try to reserve space at their local schools.

Format of Board Cluster meetings – The Board of Education visits with each cluster on a rotating schedule such that they visit every cluster approximately every 4 years. They would like MCCPTA to come up with a set of goals. At issue is whether or not it is worth the BOE members' effort to hold the meetings at all. It was agreed at this meeting that the Board of Education's input should be solicited first – is the Board visiting the PTA leadership or the Cluster itself? We should identify the meetings to the Board as a PTA function.

Vice President for Programs – April Keyes

Presidents and Principals Dinner – All volunteers are in place at this time.

There is a fund to pay for locals who can't afford to send representatives. Sponsors can also donate their seats. Be sure to pay for your Principal's seat. It is to be paid for by your local unit if he/she is coming. Principals may send in their RSVP's with no money.

All newly-elected Officers, Area Vice Presidents, and Cluster Coordinators need to attend the event to walk on stage for induction.

Vice President for Administration – Liz Wheeler

Spring Training will be held on June 4 at Blake High School from 6:30 pm to 9 pm. Volunteers are needed. Presidents should have received flyers for the training. Cluster Coordinators should encourage new officers to attend.

MDPTA Summer Conference – Leadership and position trainings will be held. There will be no issue-specific workshops this year.

A PRESIDENT-ELECT of MDPTA is needed. The qualification is only that the person is or was an elected officer of a local unit. The person will be elected in November and will serve one year in that position and then will serve 2 years as President. Anyone interested should contact Jane de Winter.

There will be a regional training in Baltimore City on May 31 and another in Harford County on June 2.

Local Elections: If any locals are having issues, contact Liz so that we can send out representatives or enable help from another cluster.

Membership lists are NOT public documents. Not everyone should have access to these documents.

New Officers' blue book and listserv information should be sent to MCCPTA office as soon as possible.

Newly nominated Cluster Coordinators can be elected at the May 21 Delegates Assembly.

Committee Reports

CIP Budget – Steve Augustino

Next years' CIP Process is beginning. Comment/writing session will be held on May 8, 7-9:30 pm at Carver.

State money promised by the Governor - \$55 million. The county has thus far received \$46.3 million. There is an effort underway to get the difference.

This year's budget is extremely difficult. All funds allocated are lower than requested.

The county council is looking to push back some projects – notably, 5 high school projects, 3 elementary school gymnasiums, will also halve the increase in a number of approved programs.

Not much stock should be placed in what has been planned in the approved CIP. The total budget shortfall is more than \$100 million over the whole budget.

Final county council vote on the budget will be on June 22.

Operating Budget – John Hall

Budget gap has increased by \$51 million between the BOE's request and the Council's request. The council is still considering elements of the budget. The county council's staff looked through the budget for reductions and identified \$25 million in possible reductions. Mark Twain closing will save about one million. Summer days for high school counselors, another planning day for high school resource teachers, extra time for EDA, elementary school team leaders (things that are already in place for this year) have been identified.

Administrative staff and technology, hiring freezes, and pension contribution reductions mentioned as well. Things that they still might include money for include: middle school reform, middle school magnet consortium, hours-based staffing, among others. This is the council's list. It then goes back to the Board of Education for approval. New initiatives and more will be affected.

Note: The County Council has no authority over the MCPS contract. The only way that they can influence that is if there is such a gap financially that there is no alternative.

Gym delays – High school modernizations are extremely expensive and are being scrutinized for possible changes to reduce the amount needed. We need to broaden comments to the County Executive and the Board of Education to push for continuing the current method of modernization. The schools are much older in wear and tear than may be assumed. Also, delays will not solve any financial difficulties due to increases in costs – the longer the wait, the higher the cost with all other things not changed.

Meeting adjourned at 9:28 pm.