

MINUTES OF THE MCCPTA EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING
Thursday, September 1, 2005 at the Carver Educational Services Center

ATTENDANCE:

Officers: Cindy Kerr, Shirley Brandman, Victor Salazar, Jinhee Wilde, Sharon St. Pierre, Liz Wheeler, April Keyes, Juan Johnson (interim treasurer)

Area Vice Presidents and Cluster Coordinators: Ted Willard, Jim Keenan, Marney Jacobs, Jane deWinter, Deborah Stevens-Panzer, Lilo Mitz, Deborah DeMille-Wagman, Mark Rother, Phil Kaufman, Karen Smith, Roseanne Hurwitz, Ellen Paul, Suzanne Weiss

Committee Chairs: Patti Twigg, Vicki Rafel, Neal Myerson, Anne Turner, Tracy Fox, Tom Murphy, Diane McHale, Gloria Selas-Kos, Vicky Strella, Kay Romero, Pam Moomau

OPENNING BUSINESS:

Call to Order: MCCPTA President Cindy Kerr called the meeting to order at 7:36 PM. Cindy Kerr asked to entertain a motion for a moment of silence on behalf of the children impacted by hurricane Katrina.

April Keyes made a motion for us to observe a moment of silence on behalf of the victims of hurricane Katrina. It was seconded and carried on a voice vote..

Meeting Minutes: The August 25, 2005 executive board meeting minutes were not distributed. Liz Wheeler apologized for not having written copies of the minutes, and gave an oral summation of the last week's meeting: including the approval of the July executive board meeting minutes; motion to approve Kay Romero and Pam Moomau to serve as alternates for Traci Fox to the Citizens Advisory Committee; motion to approve an additional \$1,000 for a two year audit; approval of executive board resolution on directories as amended; appointment of Cindy Kerr's recommendations for committee chairs on a ballot vote; motion for recommendation from the executive board for a May 2006 Delegate Assembly meeting; feedback and discussion on policy ABA and Marilyn Ryan, Rules/Procedures Chair and Bernadette Forman VP for Councils MD PTA spoke on how councils operate.

Treasurer's Report:

Juan Johnson distributed the MCCPTA's, Inc. Profit and Loss Budget vs. Actual for July 2004 through June 2005 and the unofficial proposed budget for 2005-2006. The report will be filed for audit. He also reported that the audit is slower than expected. The budget is not in balance. We must carry about \$24,000 annually to pre-pay insurance for the locals. It takes about a year to get that money back. Article XIV of our bylaws states that we must pass the budget at the first delegate assembly of the fiscal year (September). The bylaws are silent on the executive board having to approve the budget before it goes to the delegate assembly. Options were discussed including dues, membership and business partnerships. Juan will look at the budget further.

Suzanne Weiss made a motion that Juan present this budget or something close to it with the understanding that we don't want a false bottom to it. The motion was seconded and carried on a voice vote.

Juan reported on his representation of MCCPTA at the press conference at the opening of the new middle school magnet programs (Argyle, Parkland and Loiderman) at Loiderman MS. He spoke with two of the new business partners. We've been invited to have an executive board meeting at Strathmore to find out what Strathmore can do for us. There will be a new middle school core curriculum developed.

OFFICERS' REPORTS:

President:

Cindy Kerr thanked the board and officers for helping her during her husband's hospitalization and recuperation. Cindy Kerr summarized the concept high school meeting. Changes will be made for high schools in general, so there are broad implications for all high school students. Cindy will meet with the superintendent next week to discuss our concerns. Development and its impact on schools was discussed. MCPS has a new communication tool called Quick Notes. It's a monthly electronic e-mail newsletter featuring news on MCPS sponsored events, Board of Education highlights, emergency announcements, etc. It's available in 6 different languages and you can personalize your area of interest (ESOL, consortiums, etc.) MCCPTA will continue to participate with the TV channel with Aggie Alvarez. MCCPTA will not participate in press conferences if we've not been involved in the process and if it's not focused on the success of children. Banners will be purchased for the podium and back of the auditorium to show the MCCPTA logo. Fedex Kinko's and Office Depot have been contacted by Sharon. Mission and vision statements will also be posted. One officer will attend every Board of Education meeting. Dr. Weast will be meeting with us more often this year, too. We must be proactive about gang violence in our community. Cindy will give a full report of our summer meetings in October.

Vice President – Educational Issues:

Shirley Brandman thanked those committee chairs that attended training this evening before our executive board meeting. The purpose was to clarify expectations for committee chairs. We're trying to use advocacy priorities for proactive work. Shirley cited Alies Muskin's parent run for parents conference for high schools on Nov. 12. Alies is looking for parents to respond to new research, college preparation, smaller learning communities, AP, IB, learning academies, HSAs and graduation rates. And, what does this all mean for your child? Alies would like to recruit high school PTSA presidents or others to help her with this conference. CIP testimony is Nov. 9 and 10.

Vice President – Administration:

Victor Salazar reported that 6 area meetings were held this summer. Thanks to all the AVPs and cluster coordinators who helped with these meetings and shared their concerns. Council officers met with the state PTA on July 9 and attended state training July 30. A concept high school meeting was attended by MCCPTA, MCPS and representatives of the 6 clusters involved. The CIP committee had a retreat with Bruce Crispell, and Victor attended, too. There is a vacancy for the membership committee chair. The state is now requiring that councils report monthly membership numbers of each local PTA.

Vice President – Legislation:

Jinhee Wilde noted possible ways for MCCPTA to establish a relationship with the state delegation: a November meet and greet with the state delegates or just the chair of the Senate and House delegation for a briefing of upcoming legislation; an informal meet and greet with the delegates and the Board of Education; a holiday (December) or February meet and greet in the county council building. She suggested this local site would have a better turn out than going to Annapolis. Jinhee said that she's asked Michelle Yu to chair community outreach.

Vice President - Programs:

Sharon St. Pierre described project "Quality Time". It's a program organized by some Montgomery County elementary school art teachers in conjunction with the National Gallery of Art. The purpose of this event is to have parents and children spending time together in an art-inspired environment. This event will take place on two Saturdays (November 12th and December 3rd) at the National Gallery of Art in Washington DC. After the end of the second day (Dec 3rd), they will add up all the families from each school and average them out. The school with the highest percentage of participation wins some sort of "Family Art Night" for the whole school. The art night will be sponsored by Crayola.

Sharon St. Pierre made a motion to support "Project Quality Time" by disseminating information about it by asking PTA presidents, Area Vice Presidents and Cluster Coordinators to promote it. The motion was seconded and carried on a voice vote.

Sharon distributed an MCCPTA Delegate's Assembly General Protocol Sheet. She explained that many of these protocols are taken from National PTA's protocols from their conference in June - for example, the use of 3 microphones – presenting, for, and against. Motion slips can be provided or motions can be e-mailed ahead of time. We'd like to put motions on an overhead projector. Four minutes are allotted for motion presentation and two minutes each for speaking for or against a motion. Discussion included clarification of delegates/voting members, politicking and how to bring a resolution. Items 4 and 5 will be clarified for language without altering their intent.

Sharon St. Pierre made a motion to approve the protocol sheet and distribute it at the first MCCPTA Delegate Assembly. The motion was seconded and carried on a voice vote.

A motion was made by Ted Willard to include the addition of the procedure for bringing a resolution (standing rule already in place) on the back of the protocol sheet. It was seconded and carried on a voice vote.

Recording Secretary:

An oral summary of the six area meetings for this summer was presented. During the meetings Cindy addressed her solutions for bylaws issues, and Shirley reviewed grading and reporting. Topics included: safety, middle school curriculum, academic ineligibility, diversity of membership, reaching under represented populations, the rigor of curriculum, boundaries, facilities, modernizations and renovations.

Corresponding Secretary:

April Keyes had three meetings with the advisory committee for diversity training. There is an instructional video to be used for training for administrators and teachers. It is a work in progress. She'd like for us to see the video. The NAACP parent council will meet at Kennedy HS on Wednesday, Sept. 14 from 7 to 9 PM.

AGENDA ITEMS:

Old Business:

Policy FAA was discussed. A motion to make an amendment to the past resolution on Policy FAA was distributed by Jim Keenan and Marney Jacobs.

Jim Keenan made a motion to amend the past resolution so that it reads:

MCCPTA further resolves that this work group will participate with the MCPS Division of Long Range Planning in developing “long range educational facilities planning regulations” to implement the FAA-RA policy. Through this process the work group will publicly identify those portions of the policy they believe should remain policy, and will develop specific regulatory language to address provisions relating to public participation and other MCCPTA concerns. This work group will keep the MCCPTA Executive Board informed throughout the process, and will hold meetings throughout the county to further engage and solicit input from parents, PTAs and the general public.

The motion was seconded.

Ted Willard made a motion to amend the resolution by deleting all but the last paragraph as amended and read. (See below.)

The MCCPTA Executive Board resolves that a work group consisting of 6 AVP’s or representatives, the CIP Co-Chairs and two Executive Board Officers will participate with the MCPS Division of Long Range Planning in developing “long-range educational facilities planning regulations” to implement the FAA-RA policy. Through this process the work group will publicly identify those portions of the policy they believe should remain policy. This work group will develop specific regulatory language to address provisions relating to public participation and other MCCPTA concerns. This work group will hold meetings throughout the County to further engage and solicit input from parents, PTAs and the general public. The MCCPTA members of this work group will keep the MCCPTA Executive Board informed throughout the process, and make specific recommendations as to what changes the Board of Education should make when they review Policy FAA.

The motion was seconded and carried on a voice vote.

New Business:

The NEC Roscoe Nix school naming issue was discussed. Phil Kaufman gave background information. The Board of Education’s actions and policy for naming schools is questioned by the community, not the name itself. Phil will bring back a letter at the October meeting.

The County Council budget priorities hearing will be on Sept. 13. Cindy Kerr will testify. Written comments are due Sept. 6. Our position goes along with the compact. Discussion included the implications of the new high school, and class size reductions that may have been changed from 2 to 1.

Cindy noted that the Oct. 6 executive board date conflicted with an operating budget forum.

Victor Salazar made a motion to change the date of the next executive board meeting from Oct. 6 to Sept. 29.

The motion was seconded and passed on a voice vote.

Written notices of the change of date will be mailed tomorrow.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Grading and Reporting:

Shirley Brandman gave a quick update. Principals must identify a staff point person at each school by the third or fourth week of this month. The PTSA president also needs to be a point of referral to help parents or they can identify another parent to be the contact. Homework can count for up to 10%.

Reflections:

Neal Myerson said that Reflections brochures had been mailed from MD PTA, and that they are on the state website.

Cultural Arts:

The Cultural Arts Chair position is still vacant. Lisa Shore from Anne Arundel County is willing to help with the PTArts listserv.

Sharon St. Pierre made a motion to allow our Cultural Arts committee to work with the Cultural Arts chair for Anne Arundel County to co-moderate the PTArts listserv. The motion was seconded and carried on a voice vote.

Bylaws:

Vicki Rafel said that the bylaws committee will meet on Sept. 7 at 7:30 PM in the CES cafeteria.

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting was adjourned at 9:53 PM.