

MINUTES OF THE MCCPTA BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
Thursday, November 2, 2006 at the Carver Educational Services Center

ATTENDANCE:

Officers: Jane de Winter, April Keyes, Liz Wheeler, Juan Johnson, Sharon St.Pierre, Cassandra Abdelmeguid, Kay Romero

Area Vice Presidents and Cluster Coordinators: Phil Kaufman, Jim Keenan, Ted Willard, Steve Crowley, John F. Hall, Jr., Paul Morrison, Karen Smith, Carley Lee, Deborah DeMille-Wagman, Ellen Paul, Harlivleen Gill, Susan Stavenhagen, Carroll Lovelace, Linda Kuserk, Sally Taber

Committee Chairs: Pam Moomau, Patti Twigg, Marney Jacobs, Diane Dickson, Gloria Salos-Kos, Vicki Rafel

OPENING BUSINESS:

Call to Order: MCCPTA President Jane de Winter called the meeting to order at 7:42 PM.

Agenda: The agenda was accepted as written.

Minutes/Secretary's Report: The October 5, 2006 Board of Directors meeting minutes were distributed.

Ted Willard made a motion to approve the minutes as written. It was seconded and passed by a voice vote.

Treasurer's Report: Budget

The Treasurer distributed the Balance Sheet as of October 30, 2006, the Profit and Loss as of October 2006 and the Budget vs. Actuals: Approved Budget – FY 07 P&L for July to October 2006. These are different from what was distributed at the October Delegate Assembly because the accounting system is changing. A monthly report summary will be given to the Board of Directors. Membership dues were due November 1. About half of the schools have sent them in. Adjustments to the budget need to be made for the presidents and principals dinner. It's currently a \$20,000 item, but the last estimate is \$30,000.

Juan Johnson made a motion to raise income from \$20,000 to \$30,000 and expenses from \$20,000 to \$30,000 for the presidents and principals line item in the MCCPTA budget. The motion passed on a voice vote.

The treasurer's working on audits. Area Vice Presidents and cluster coordinators should make sure that their local PTAs are getting two signatures on checks, and filing 990s or the extension form 8868. This announcement will be put on the Bulletin again. Local PTAs don't get voting cards until their dues are paid, and you can't vote without a card.

OFFICERS' REPORTS:

Vice President for Educational Issues:

Susie Scofield is the MCCPTA representative on the planning committee for the "Partnership of Relevancy through Rigor" conference on June 21 at Northwest High School. The next planning meeting is November 16 and participants will discuss possible break out sessions and presenters. Three key areas for break out sessions are: redesigning schools to compete globally; promoting rigor, relevance and relationships; and fostering key transitions through secondary education to college and careers. Additional information will be posted on the Bulletin.

Vice President for Administration:

The nominating committee convened Monday, October 30 and elected Mark Rother as their committee chair. Some clusters haven't identified who will be testifying on November 15 and 16. Four additional names were added tonight, leaving two clusters without designated speakers. This year's schedule includes additional testimony in February (dates TBD in November) to the county council and in April (dates TBD in March) on the operating budget. Nominating committee general information is posted on the web site. Three items of the four on the website are obsolete and one needs to be edited.

Vice President for Programs:

The November Delegate Assembly program will feature a speaker from the George B. Thomas Learning Academy. The program begins at 7 pm with a thirty minute talk followed by questions and answers. The Vice President is drafting a corporate sponsorship letter for the presidents and principals dinner.

Vice President for Legislation: - Legislative Dinner

The Legislative Dinner will be held at 7 pm on Monday, November 13 at Carver. The Vice President and Legislative Committee chair will distribute talking points for the dinner later. Last week's event with the Board of Education and MCPS staff went well and was productive.

President's Report:

The President distributed a list of her activities from September 8 to November 2. Committee chairs are encouraged to check the website for their committee's information to check for accuracy and to update it. The regulation on websites from policy CNA is on the MCPS website. The correspondence file circulated tonight included the letter from National PTA in response to our request for legal advice, which is that National PTA sees it as a local issue. Delegate voting cards were distributed. Please return the survey on teacher absences. MCCPTA representatives will attend the November 21 Harvard Leadership Seminar with selected MCPS staff. The President asked for volunteers, and found ten who were willing to serve on committees for examining home reports for MSAs and HSAs. Kay Romero is serving on the Collaborative Action Process group. The President distributed copies of draft for public comment for policy IEB – Middle School Education and policy FFA Naming School Facilities.

AGENDA ITEMS:

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

CIP:

The CIP committee distributed the CIP Committee Talking Points for the FY 08 Capital Budget and Amendments to the FY 2007-2012 Capital Improvement Program, and the MCPS Actual Enrollment for the past nine years by cluster based upon September 30 data that was distributed at the November 1 CIP Forum. The committee co-chairs serve on a committee looking at education specifications for high school in terms of buildings and programs. They're looking for parent representatives to develop education specifications. A CIP Committee report was distributed. The county council approved and fully funded the \$1.175 billion CIP (for the full 6 years) last year. This is year two. The Superintendent's theme for this year is, "A great teacher in every classroom and a great classroom for every teacher." MCPS is asking the state for \$135.5 million of which only \$39 million is for already approved projects. The second phase of the Superintendent's initiative is to get rid of portables, so he's proposing amendments to the

current FY 2007-2012 CIP that will add capacity. He'll be proposing several new projects as part of the six year plan. The chairs requested that clusters state in their CIP testimony that they support the Superintendent's Budget and amendments, and support maintaining and accelerating the modernization schedule. Our legacy of building and long range plans is to address needs for the future. Also, please urge the Board of Education to change policy FAA to the work group recommendations, to develop a clear set of criteria for school additions, and ask for maintenance programs and staff. There's currently a six year maintenance backlog that will cost between \$40 to \$50 million to eliminate, and then if eliminated an additional \$7 to \$10 million annually for new maintenance. MCCPTA is requesting a ranked FACTS scores list. The President proposed a task force, including elected officials, to explore how we do modernizations and how to expand maintenance funding. Lead in the water isn't completely taken care of, yet, but it's addressed by maintenance staff. Testimony reminders were given: five minutes of testimony for Board of Education (three minutes for the county council); bring twenty-five copies of testimony; give a copy to MCCPTA; Bruce Crispell will help with facts; and written testimony can be longer, and include attachments.

ESOL Committee:

The committee chair distributed a list of Impediments to Immersion Programs and the Montgomery County Education Forum (MCEF) Mission Statement. The ESOL is actively seeking committee members. They'll meet Monday night at 7:00 in the cafeteria. Molly Callaway, of the Volunteer Bank of Montgomery County, will be there to help work on strategies to better provide language assistance to schools. David Fray, from "Our Schools Today" on Channel 34, which provides special topic programming in six languages, will talk about how to disseminate information. The ESOL Committee chair is attending a volunteer network dinner with the language bank on November 30. Please send her suggestions on how to better connect our schools with the language bank. The ESOL committee, immersion coordinators and PTA representatives have been examining seven immersion programs to see how to better connect ESOL students. The list of impediments is their summary of issues and concerns. The chair seeks support for a November 18 event to co-sponsor with MCEF to be held at Latin American Youth Center, which is donating the space. Parents, teachers and staff of immersion programs are encouraged to attend. Speakers include, Sarah Shin, UMBC Associate Professor and Co-Director of Bilingual Education, Julie Sugarman of the Center for Applied Linguistics, someone from the DC Office of Bilingual Education and Kemp Mill Elementary School staff, students and parents.

Sharon St.Pierre made a motion that MCCPTA co-sponsor the November 18 forum with MCEF. It was seconded and passed by a voice vote.

Operating Budget:

The Operating Budget Committee chair distributed the Draft MCCPTA FY2008 Operating Budget Compact and a Resolution on FY 2008 Operating Budget Priorities. It should be presented to locals because it will be voted on at the November Delegate Assembly. It's like last year's compact, but now it's aligned with the MCPS strategic goals. The second page is a resolution asking for delegates to endorse MCCPTA to actively concentrate on six items as a priority. Discussion included: questions and comments on hours based staffing; technical comments on IDEA; home school models; removing full day kindergarten from the first set of bullets; and high school guidance counselors (goal three).

Ted Willard proposed an amendment to add an additional bulleted item to the resolution, “To provide greater professional development for classroom teachers to improve the quality of instruction.” It wasn’t seconded.

The group consensus was to vote as a block for whole compact.

A voice vote endorsing the compact passed unanimously.

Safety Committee:

The Safety Committee chair distributed a Draft Resolution Regarding Improving Security Conditions at Local Schools. At last month’s Board of Directors meeting a lively discussion on safety issues included a disparity of, and no consensus of opinions. Security continues to be a concern; therefore, the Safety Committee developed the following resolution:

WHEREAS recent incidents involving violence and threats of violence from intruders in schools both nationally and in Montgomery County have revealed the vulnerability of many Montgomery County school buildings to potential intruders; and

WHEREAS the potential for threats from intruders varies from school to school depending on the configuration of each school, its site, and its location; and,

WHEREAS all students and staff in Montgomery County Public Schools should be assured that everything that is reasonably possible is being done to enhance school security; and

WHEREAS portable classrooms pose the following security hazards relating to:

- Movement of students and staff between portables and the main building,
- Isolation of students and staff, often without visual contact between the portable doorway and the main school building; and
- Lack of access to building facilities such as bathrooms and water in the event of lockdown situations;

now therefore be it

RESOLVED that MCCPTA urges Montgomery County Public Schools to work with local schools in conducting a security inventory of their school facilities, including soliciting input from staff and parents associated with each facility;

RESOLVED that MCCPTA supports local school community requests for such door locking, camera, and other security equipment as may be require to ensure that access to the school is adequately limited during the school day and urges MCPS to allocate resources necessary to provide such equipment;

RESOLVED that MCCPTA urges MCPS to amend potable siting specifications to include consideration of security-relate criteria; and

RESOLVED that MCCPTA urges MCPS to investigate ways to improve access to bathroom facilities for students in portables during lockdown situations.

Discussion included: the MCPS model (from MCPS Division of Security)-all doors locked except main door; new schools vs. old schools; door surveillance; estimated average cost of \$2,000 to set up one school’s security (camera and buzzer feeding into front office); local school community definition intended to be PTA and staff; security staff; permanent fixtures; resolution language suggesting local support; supporting dialogue about security concerns; portables; funding for security inventory recommendations; people and/or equipment; and student incited violence.

Ted Willard made an amendment to the resolves in the resolution:

RESOLVED that Montgomery County Public Schools to conduct a security inventory of their ... (followed by identical language)

RESOLVED that MCPS provide resources as may be required to ensure that access to the school is adequately limited during the school day.

RESOLVED that MCPS amend the portable siting ... (followed by identical language)

RESOLVED that MCPS investigate ways (followed by identical language)

It was seconded. It passed by a show of hands.

Discussion of the amendment included: adequate versus appropriate; information needed from MCPS and locals; and the need for MCPS to acknowledge that security can be handled better.

Deborah DeMille Wagman made an amendment to the second resolve as amended that, “MCCPTA supports the consideration of local school community requests as may be required to ensure that access to the school is adequately limited during the school day and urges MCPS to allocate resources as necessary and as may be determined to be appropriate.” The amendment was seconded. It failed on a voice vote.

The original resolution as amended passed by a show of hands.

NEW BUSINESS:

Naming Policy:

Comments are due in December. Discussion included being discouraged by the ability of the Board of Education to wave the process. The consensus was to have the President write and post comments to the delegates and the Board of Directors.

Middle School Policy:

Comments are due in December. The Gifted Child Committee has posted comments on this policy. Other committees should comment, too. Delegates can then be given general points and endorsements. Comments should be sent to the Middle School Committee by November 16, for discussion at their November 20 meeting. The first Middle School Forum will be held on November 13. The forum format is a discussion of the policy and the initiatives followed by break out sessions of more discussion on the initiatives. Goals and strategies will be seen for the first time that night. The Board of Education policy is research based. The Middle School report isn't written, yet. Alternative language cited from page 11, “the school will provide” and “the school should help” was cited and discussed as regards extracurricular activities and academic ineligibility. The terms “highly qualified”, “high quality”, and “cultural competence” were discussed, as examples of what needs to be clarified for parents. Please compare the old and new policies, and make specific and general comments. Parents should understand that the Middle School reforms are not curriculum focused.

Curriculum Committee:

The December 2 meeting will feature a speaker from the Office of Professional Development.

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting was adjourned at 9:54 PM.