

MCCPTA DELEGATES ASSEMBLY

June 28, 2016

Carver Auditorium

Attending: President Paul Geller, VP Administration Stephen Wilson, VP Educational Issues Jennifer McDonald, VP Programs Melissa McKenna, Treasurer Lisa Betts, and delegates/board members JoAnn Burl, Jane Lehrman, Oscar & Sarah Alvarenga, Joe (new Summit Hall delegate), Jim Bradley (Walter Johnson CC), Laura (Kingsview delegate).

The meeting was called to order at 7:53pm by President Paul Geller. He welcomed delegates and shared the mission of MCCPTA. JoAnn Burl was offered affirmations of good work on the NAACP ACT-SO competition.

OFFICER REPORTS

President – Paul Geller

Paul noted that dues remain at \$5.25 for the upcoming year. That includes \$1 for MCCPTA and \$4.25 paid to Maryland PTA, split with National PTA.

Year-end wrap: Our local units made this year what it was!

MCCPTA Presents: Paul talked about hosting our monthly public access program on MCPS-TV, which highlights key issues, newsmakers and community leaders in education.

MDPTA: Served on the Maryland PTA board as State Membership Chair. Paul noted that at state and national conventions, MCCPTA is hailed as one of the best districts in the nation for advocacy and engagement! He emphasized that for advocacy to work, relationships must be built year-round with our partner lawmakers, not just when PTA wants action.

Advocacy: Paul urged members to be positive, original and conversational in our testimony before the Board of Education and County Council. The BOE hears Capital Improvement Program (CIP) budget testimony in November and Operating Budget testimony in January, followed by separate hearings for each before County Council. This year MCCPTA got everything it asked for “and some” - \$89 million beyond expectations for the operating budget, and more than \$30 million a year for school construction, as a result of the county recordation tax increase.

Paul noted that the funding discussion then shifts to Annapolis and said January through April are key months where MCCPTA “really shines” to our state delegation.

(There was discussion of school funding from Annapolis and the importance of MCCPTA advocacy. Jane Lehrman added that GHS – Gaithersburg High School cost \$92 million in 2013,

Good Council High School, which is half the size and had no auditorium, cost \$60 million. Melissa McKenna noted that Seneca Valley High School construction will cost \$120 million.)

Presidents and Principals dinner: More than 300 people attended our year-end event in May. It was nice, but costly. Audio-visual equipment alone (large screens) cost \$7,000. MCCPTA will discuss possible changes later this summer and again in August and September.

Spring Training: 224 people attended Spring Training, a great turnout.

VP Educational Issues – Jennifer McDonald

Kudos to Amanda Graver, Curriculum Committee chair, and others for tackling significant issues, including a student who wanted but was unable to take Honors Biology.

The Health and Safety Committee has been active in promoting discussion on tech issues and health implications of WiFi in schools.

There's no new information on the Choice Study, MCPS' study of choice programs. Paul noted that details are available on the MCPS website. The discussion groups led by MCPS were just a starting point.

(There was discussion of under-representation in Choice programs, how our new Superintendent Dr. Jack Smith will get involved, how the study worked through MCPS channels and when the Board of Education may act on it.)

VP Administration – Steve Wilson

MCCPTA officers are looking forward to hearing from PTAs at summer area meetings. Four have been scheduled:

Date	Area	Time/Location
6/29	Gaithersburg-Watkins Mill-Damascus-Magruder	7pm @Montgomery Village MS
7/7	Churchill-Richard Montgomery-Poolsville-Wootton-Rockville	TBD
7/19	Downcounty Consortium	TBD
7/25	Clarksburg-Northwest-Quince Orchard-Seneca Valley	TBD
Ask AVP Carol	Northeast Consortium/Sherwood	TBD

VP Programs – Melissa McKenna

Melissa would like to schedule August training if possible and a summer cookout with elected officials.

Treasurer – Lisa Betts

We'll transition finances once the fiscal year closes on June 30. There's \$46,000 in the account, however, there is an outstanding \$23,000 Marriott bill for the Presidents and Principals dinner. Lisa noted that she's been a treasurer five times and is currently also treasurer at Greencastle Elementary and Benjamin Banneker Middle School.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

CIP – Melissa McKenna, chair

- Cluster coordinators: it's *very* important to submit cluster comments prior to area summer meetings with the Division of Long Range Planning! Comments summarize CIP issues/needs/requests in your cluster.
- FACT scores were re-calculated and schools will be re-assessed and re-scored this summer. These scores help determine where schools fall on the Revitalization-Expansion (Rev-Ex) list. A county council report released last summer pointed out concerns and calculation errors.
- Bus depot: for now no interim solutions or bus parking at Carver or anywhere in the City of Rockville.
- The success on the Subdivision Staging Policy (the County growth policy that provides for adequate public facilities, including schools) is due to the Next Steps Reps and Cluster Coordinators
- A shout-out to Michelle Miller for successful advocacy for Northwood HS needs. Came to \$500K!

Membership – Tracie Potts, chair (*absent, report presented by Paul Geller*)

MCCPTA has 48,600 members to date, with more coming in. 11 PTAs haven't paid county dues. There was no membership chair last year. Tracie has a strong game plan to increase membership next year. Evaluations from the Spring Training membership workshop were almost all positive.

Paul noted the power of membership for advocacy. His home school Belmont Elementary PTA (student population 316) increased from 178 to 650 members! Numbers – especially when they show a marked increase – get the attention of elected leaders making decisions about our schools. Melissa added the power of 48,000 PTA voices has been mentioned in Annapolis.

Paul stated that Mike Durso, the Board of Education President, mentions MCCPTA advocacy whenever school budgets are discussed and that he gives kudos to the organization for great positive, collaborative work!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- The Delegates Assembly will continue to meet on 4th Tuesdays this summer.
- MDPTA's 101st Convention takes place Aug. 5-6 at the Doubletree in Silver Spring.
- Please turn in Blue Book forms due 6/30! This is how MCCPTA keeps in touch.

BREAKOUTS

Attendees participated in breakout sessions on the following topics:

- Running a PTA
- Membership, Engagement & Outreach
- Advocacy
- General questions

“SAVE THE DATE” ANNOUNCEMENTS

- 7/7 Walter Johnson cluster will meet with Parks and Planning staff – regarding the Grosvenor metro and Master Plan amendment
- 7/8 Damascus Day (with fireworks!)
- 9/17 Poolesville Day (all day events, parade)
- 9/24 Burtonsville Day (with marching bands, PTAs, parade)

The meeting adjourned at 9:30 pm.