

MCCPTA Board of Directors Meeting
March 2, 2017
Carver Center Auditorium

Attending: President Paul Geller, VP Education Jen McDonald, VP Programs Melissa McKenna, VP Administration Steve Wilson, Treasurer Lisa Betts, BOD Secretary Tracie Potts, 19 board members and one delegate (Deb Lang).

President Geller opened the meeting at 7:38pm. The Mission of PTA was read by Kevin David. The agenda and minutes were reviewed (no quorum to approve). By unanimous consent at the request of Cynthia Simonson, three items were added to "Old Business": President's report, office manager and casino gambling advocacy.

OLD BUSINESS

- Reading Initiative: President Geller noted that this \$2 million program – including 35 teachers – was restored to the MCPS budget due to MCCPTA testimony. Also, the Montgomery College ACES program will expand to all high schools next year.
- Elections: Nominating Committee member Kellie Scholar-Reynolds stated that Tracie Potts was confirmed as BOD Secretary and Therese Gibson as DA Secretary at the Feb. 28 Delegates Assembly. Candidates for VP of Advocacy didn't meet qualifications.
- President's Report: Member Cynthia Simonson suggested that the board issue a correction statement to settle ongoing questions about the President's Report incorrectly noting that MCCPTA began the year with a \$22,000 deficit. Several members agreed but no one was identified to draft the statement. Copies of this year's bank statements, requested by Past President Frances Frost, were distributed for review and returned. A lengthy discussion about MCCPTA finances followed.
- Office Manager: The position was budgeted but would've resulted in only a \$60 carryover, so the Executive Committee delayed hiring until further savings could be identified. Members engaged in a lengthy discussion about the need for an office manager, lack of communication in the absence of the manager, and whether the Executive Committee's decision to delay hiring was responsible to ensure sufficient carryover or in violation of the bylaws and budget approved by the board. There was no consensus. Special Education chair Jeanne Taylor offered to donate \$5,000 toward hiring an office manager. Treasurer Lisa Betts agreed to prepare an amended budget to increase carryover funds.
- Casino gambling advocacy: Cynthia Simonson expressed concern about the tone of the discussion at the Feb. 28 Delegates Assembly and noted that the board needs to agree whether to pursue this.

NEW BUSINESS

- Damascus Cluster Coordinator: A vote to approve Patty Miller was delayed. VP of Programs Melissa McKenna declared that a quorum was not present.
- County Executive's Operating Budget: Released March 15. Hearings the first week of April (dates not announced) will be open signup.

- Annapolis advocacy: More than 350 education bills are being considered, more on policy than financial issues. Bills include adding parents and teachers to the state BOE (MDPTA supports), school calendars, ESSA and parental notification for IEP changes. Thanks to Special Education chair Jeanne Taylor for her efforts on the IEP bill.

COMMITTEE/CLUSTER REPORTS

(Also see posted reports)

CIP - Melissa McKenna, chair

Ms. McKenna provided status reports and details for the Walter Johnson-DCC-BCC-Whitman capacity study, Unity/Highland boundary studies (March 9 event), RMS and Shady Grove boundary studies. She also explained a countywide review of “playing fields.” Finally, County Council Education forums sponsored by Councilmember Craig Rice are scheduled at 6:30pm on March 8 (Blair HS), 15 (MC Scott bldg. rm 211), 22 (WJHS) and 29 (RMHS). Encourage parents to attend.

Special Education - Jeanne Taylor, chair

MCCPTA’s 29th Annual Special Education Awards will be held May 8 at Rockville HS. Encourage members to nominate, especially students.

Membership – Tracie Potts, chair

As of today, membership is 35,710, below last year. Belmont ES is our monthly challenge Grand Prize banner winner for February for adding the most members since January 1. 15 other schools that added 100+ members in 2017 so far will be recognized with certificates and \$25 Giant gift cards. The final challenge ends March 24, recognizing schools with the highest engagement (membership vs enrollment). Urge schools to report all membership by March 31 to be eligible for MCCPTA and MDPTA growth awards.

Awards – Tracie Potts, member

March 10 is the deadline for nominations for the Champion for Children Award, sponsored by the Montgomery County Business Roundtable. March 31 is the deadline for all other MCCPTA Awards. The nomination packet will be reposted on listservs. 1-2 more members are needed.

Curriculum - Cynthia Simonson, High School subcommittee chair

RSVP for Science Night. 200-800 people are expected.

Nominating – Kellie Schoolar-Reynolds

Nominations for 2017-18 officers are due March 6. Nominations for 2017-18 Area VPs and Cluster Coordinators are due March 15. The slate will be announced by March 26. Candidates who wish to run from the floor must notify the committee by April 11. The election will take place at the April 25 Delegates Assembly. Remind local PTAs to form nominating committees *now*.

OFFICER REPORTS

Treasurer – Lisa Betts

\$1,680 income and \$569 expenses in February. Committees not spending all their budgeted funds, and delaying the office manager hiring, has helped ensure sufficient carryover for next year.

VP of Programs – Melissa McKenna

The MCCPTA Performing Arts Festival is scheduled for Saturday, April 29, 11am-8pm at the Rockville Town Center Stage. The Reflections program will take place March 18 at Gaithersburg HS. A committee of three (plus the chair) has formed to plan the Presidents and Principals event.

VP of Administration – Steve Wilson

SOCA compliance is improving. The February report should be available next week and will be distributed to Area VPs and Cluster Coordinators for follow up with individual PTAs.

VP of Education – Jennifer McDonald

- Jeanne Taylor was recognized for advocating on behalf of a bill requiring parental notification to parents of IEP students. Please support!
- Compacted math and lack of Math 7 remain concerns, along with grading (a “P” can mean anything from a C+ to an A). Parents of upcoming middle school students need to actively choose their child’s path. Some special education students are forced to take double periods including math support, preventing them from participating in electives. Pushing students too soon into higher math can be a setup for failure.

President – Paul Geller

Councilmember Rice’s Education Forums can help parents understand strategic accelerators.

Discussion of a Safe Schools resolution was tabled due to time. Several board members expressed grave concern that this important issue was tabled due to continued discussion of the President’s Report and office manager.

The meeting adjourned at 9:51pm.