

MCCPTA BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

September 1, 2016

Carver Auditorium

Attending: President Paul Geller, VP Education Jennifer McDonald, VP Programs Melissa McKenna, VP Administration Steve Wilson, Treasurer Lisa Betts and 23 board members.

Paul Geller called the meeting to order at 7:40pm and welcomed everyone to the year's first BOD meeting. He recounted the "miracle" \$89 million budget increase supporting schools, emphasizing the importance of civil advocacy.

The mission of PTA was read in English and Spanish.

Quorum was established with 24 AVP, cluster coordinators and committee chairs.

New AVP and Cluster Coordinators were approved unanimously:

- Patrick Dunn, McGruder
- Jason Sartori, Whitman
- Khristy Kartsakalis, Sherwood
- Charisse Scott, AVP NEC-Sherwood

June minutes were approved.

AFFIRMATIONS

Paul recognized Paint Branch Cluster Coordinator Tracie Potts for pitching in in several areas over the summer, including membership, communications, cluster issues and assisting in the background with responsibilities of the Executive Committee.

OFFICER REPORTS

President Paul Geller

It's been a busy summer! I attended all 6 area meetings. No two clusters are alike. It's helpful to hear concerns. I had a chance to address the Knott Commission in Annapolis regarding funding school construction. Governor Hogan favors limited projects over large ones. We'll continue to focus on making more money available, including going after \$1.8 billion a year in casino revenue. We need to reverse the revenue formula from 80% casinos-20% schools to the opposite.

VP Education Jennifer McDonald

Recurring issues from summer meetings include:

- Large class sizes (causing student stress)
- Equity (there's a big sociology-economic divide)
- Technology (Chrome books for younger grades)
- Math curriculum (compacted math & algebra, making sure kids don't fall through the cracks)
- Foreign language (more classes started sooner, often not offered)
- Teacher training (before curriculum changes)
- Choice study (BOE presentation Sept 26)

Comment: Richard Montgomery Cluster Coordinator shared concerns about a lack of diversity in language immersion programs. Parents in this cluster would like a second language program or an IB World School primary program in the new elementary school. They're asking for MCCPTA's guidance and support in that process. Gifted Child Chair also weighed in.

VP Administration Steve Wilson

Summer meetings should be planned earlier next year. Steve will start contacting AVPs in the spring.

Fall training is scheduled for Sept. 10 at Montgomery Blair HS. Steve reviewed the agenda. Please sign up via SignUp Genius.

Cluster Coordinators: please follow up on the first SOCA report that's been sent out. Please urge your schools to get their Blue Book forms in ASAP.

Question: When will listserv permissions be granted? (Soon - in the next week or two.)

Question: Priscilla's 3rd session cultural arts workshop isn't listed. (It's not on tonight's handout but it IS on the Signup Genius).

VP Programs Melissa McKenna

Melissa's been visiting new MCPS officials and introducing herself around at the Carver Center (MCPS Headquarters).

"MCCPTA Presents": Dr. Jack Smith will be our first guest on Sept. 27 and will stay for the beginning of the Delegates Assembly. Kaitlyn Richards - a gold medal ACT-SO winner this year - will also perform.

Treasurer Lisa Betts

Reviewed the printed report, highlighting August income and expenses. The draft budget for 2016-17 is based on \$68,759.27 income with \$80,420 expenses. Carryover funds of \$12,121.56 will cover the shortfall. (In response to a question, Lisa said this year's carryover is significantly lower than prior years.)

Steve moved to increase Reflections expenses from \$1,500 to \$1,900 in order to not shortchanged students. The extra \$400 will come from carryover. The motion was approved.

In response to a question, Paul and Melissa explained that the \$4,000 advocacy budget is significantly higher than last year's actual expenses of \$266.20 because the buses for Day to Annapolis and leaders advocacy dinner were canceled. We'd like to do those events this year.

The budget was approved. Paul thanked Lisa for her diligence in getting MCCPTA finances in order this summer after a series of several treasurers in the last few years. She even found uncashed checks in the office!

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Membership - Tracie Potts

Membership cards: MDPTA's late decision in August not to mail cards this year has caused much frustration and created much feedback. MCCPTA will distribute cards at Sept. 10 training. Pickup forms, Local Officer Contact forms and insurance payments are not required. Cluster Coordinators and AVPs are encouraged to pick up for their areas.

Membership Toolkit: This new online resource is ready and available for use under the "What We Do" tab on MCCPTA.org. It includes many ready-to-use resources for PTAs. Please share with your schools.

Sponsor proposal: Advanced Imaging East of Crofton would like to sponsor this year's membership campaign by providing monthly incentives September – March, plus free shirts to MCCPTA schools that contract with them for spiritwear. In exchange, MCCPTA would promote AIE as an exclusive preferred partner and offer free vendor space at countywide vents, but would not guarantee business. Tracie shared product samples.

The proposal was approved unanimously.

CIP - Melissa McKenna

Cluster comments: We have two new phenomenal middle schools: Farquhar and Hallie Wells. Other buildings aren't so good. We're reviewing summer cluster comments. The Division of Long Range Planning has summarized them and is following up. They include maintenance needs. Meetings for the next CIP begin this month.

FACT reassessment: A contractor completed evaluations over the summer. New scores will be issued on Oct. 13. The Superintendent's supplemental recommendations and boundary studies are also due that day.

The full CIP is released on Oct. 27. It's an off-year, so there will be adjustments but not many new projects. The MCCPTA-MCPS CIP forum is scheduled for that night.

A testimony workshop is scheduled for Nov. 2. CIP BOE hearings are Nov. 10 and 14.

The Subdivision Staging Policy was passed by the Parks and Planning Board in July. It's before the County Council. MCCPTA will share our input via Next Step Reps subcommittee chair Liz King. This is our opportunity to make sure we're keeping pace with residential development in the county.

Training (covered earlier by Steve Wilson)

ADVOCACY UPDATE - Paul

Funding from the County Council for Operating Budget and CIP – Paul Geller

A Ficker amendment on term limits will be up for a vote in November. If it passes, several Council members won't be up for re-election and are more likely to vote their conscience. This may present a good opportunity to ask for more money. We'll keep you posted. We need more money for school construction. MCCPTA has been pushing BOE to consider more renovation projects instead of building new schools, since money is hard to come by.

FACT scores: schools will likely move up and down the Rev-Ex list. We need to manage expectations and push for advocacy beyond BOE, in County Council and Annapolis. If people really care, urge them to take half a day off work to go testify.

NEW BUSINESS

Next Step Reps - Liz King

The Hybrid Annual School Test only applies to clusters and not individual overcrowded schools. We have concerns about changes to facility payments that limit changes up or down to no more than 5 percent.

Questions/comments:

- Tracie Potts noted that the Subdivision Staging Policy is also relevant to non high-growth areas because it affects how school construction funds are prioritized. When funds are tight, old buildings with capacity but needing modernization are bumped to the end of the list. So schools in areas without much new construction should also be concerned and advocate.
- Liz said it's important that the amount developers are charged is accurate to make them responsible for the impact of residential construction.
- Melissa mentioned that land acquisition is also an issue. (please elaborate)

- Facility payments are used specifically in clusters *where they are collected*, not overall construction funds. Within the municipalities of Rockville and Gaithersburg, the payments are not collected.
- The user-friendly SSP FAQs is very helpful, explaining a complex issue in a more understandable format.
- A concern was raised that areas with more voices and louder advocacy may will receive more funds.
- Liz explained that a developer's "fair share" is a percentage of the cost of a seat, which can go up or down. We're working to make sure the percentage is increased.
- Cluster Coordinator Jason Sartori also works for the Planning Department and works on this issue professionally. He can answer questions.

The Next Steps Reps SSP priorities were unanimously approved.

New Safety Policy

Emphasis on the new mandatory online volunteer training is a result of Superintendent Dr. Jack Smith's concern about student safety. Dr. Maria Navarro told Paul this is the new law of the land. Paul shared that this extra step - requiring IDs and background checks - may prevent volunteers in some communities. Discussion raised several concerns:

- One member said the training felt like a "how-to" on child abuse.
- Clarification is needed on who must take the training. Are PTA volunteers at PTA events required to present certificates of completion? Paul will clarify.
- Carol Shivers – also an MCPS employee – noted there's a difference in who takes the online training and who gets a background check. Principals have been informed that all parent/school volunteers must prove they've completed the training.

Office Manager

Pam Loebach has left after 8 years. The Executive Committee has drafted a job description for the opening, including duties and \$20/hour part time. The Board discussed reducing pay to \$17.50/hour, increasing over time, and establishing a 3-person selection committee (ES, MS, HS) to decide (instead of the Executive Committee). For now, the position will be posted as is.

MCPS Calendar

The board discussed Gov. Hogan's executive order that all Maryland schools start after Labor Day and end by June 15. The Montgomery County Board of Education – which previously expressed a desire to start school one week earlier – is planning to present a draft calendar for a vote in November.

Concerns discussed included accommodating holidays, snow days, union-contracted days for grading, summer training days, academic loss during summer, after-school activity compensation, additional summer camp/care costs a hardship for parents and calendars in other area districts.

There was no consensus. Comments should be submitted on the BOE website. They will be compiled and reviewed as the board considers next year's calendar in light of the governor's order.

Presidents & Principal's Dinner

Paul stated that last year's dinner resulted in a \$10,000 loss, including thousands spent on audio/visual equipment. He considers it a bad use of funds and proposes a scaled-down event next year:

- in a high school cafeteria or auditorium
- \$15 tickets (currently \$55)
- Invite 100+ PTA presidents and principals
- ceremony including the year's highlights and swearing in local presidents
- catered by culinary arts students

Cost estimate: \$2,000 room rental, \$8,000 food

No one volunteered to chair the dinner.

Paul gave some background: tickets increased from \$35 to \$60 six or seven years ago when we lost the country club location. Discussion included high school venues large enough for this event, how this event fits our vision and mission, focus on celebrating students and scholars.

It was noted that the smaller budgeted amount for this event in the approved budget suggests that the decision to downsize it has already been made. Paul noted that the budget can be amended.

Upcoming Events

- **9/13 SSP hearing** – 10 needed to testify (via SignUp Genius), more needed to fill audience and hold signs (signs will be provided)

The meeting adjourned at 9:52pm.