MCCPTA DELEGATES ASSEMBLY

December 4, 2019

Richard Montgomery High School Cafeteria

Lynne Harris, President, MCCPTA called the meeting to order at 7:06 pm.

Lynne addressed the Delegates Assembly with the following statement:

“I want to make clear that I have heard the concerns expressed about my Nov. 18 testimony before the Board of Education, specifically that I misrepresented MCCPTA’s support for the boundary analysis.

What I meant to convey was that the scope, purpose, and process of the analysis reflects many of the priorities, ideas and concerns shared by MCPS communities all across the county for many years – among them the need for more engagement, a focused and intentional emphasis on equity, the development of innovative tools to help us communicate, plan, and share data more effectively, and open-minded consideration of non-CIP solutions to our capacity and access challenges.

I made a mistake in asserting that MCCPTA strongly supports the current, ongoing analysis. In 2018-19, MCCPTA included in our Advocacy Priorities the request that MCPS entertain non-CIP solutions to capacity challenges that included analyzing boundaries. Specifically, we stated *“(d)ue to scarcity of funds, solutions beyond building new schools and additions should be implemented to relieve overcrowding, including filling empty seats in underutilized schools by incorporating programming solutions, analyzing boundaries, and utilizing non-traditional facilities.”*

In 2019-20, with the analysis beginning, we agreed to stay neutral on that issue.

I should have been clear in my testimony – that while MCCPTA supported analyzing boundaries in our 2018-19 Advocacy Priorities, this year – because the issue of analyzing boundaries has become so contentious – we chose to remain neutral as a collective body, recognizing the range of views among us.

It has also been communicated to me that some have been offended by what I wrote in response to the criticism of my November 18 testimony. For that I apologize, and hope that my work on behalf of this organization over the past 10 years has made clear that I would never intentionally offend, and that I deeply value and appreciate the time and work of our MCCPTA leaders in supporting our students and schools.

Going forward, in service to MCCPTA’s mission, I hope that all of us - each of whom are well-intended, imperfect, and get tired sometimes – would seek to instill civility, respect, and a degree of forbearance into the work around issues that are difficult. At the end of the day, we are all volunteers, and the students are listening.”

After the statement was read, Lynne mentioned the meetings that are underway for the boundary analysis as well as addressed a delegates concern that her statement (above) be entered into the BOE record from the 11/18/19 testimony, Lynne indicated she would do so.

Quorum was established and the October 2019 DA Minutes were adopted. The Agenda for the 12/4/19 DA meeting was also adopted.

**Mikey Greenblatt** – Mr. Greenblatt spoke to the DA about the Marian Greenblatt Education Fund and encouraged everyone to nominate teachers/staff in MoCo for the award. Additional information can be found on the website: <https://www.greenblatteducationfund.org>

**Associate Superintendent Ruschelle Reuben** - Ms. Reuben spoke about Be Well 365, its intention to address the mental health issues our students are facing today. She provided an overview of the program – the counseling work in schools, 365 programs for wellness, what schools are doing in their buildings as well as community wellness outreach. Her office, OSFSE, is committed to mental health wellness as it pertains to student achievement and agency. More information can be found on the website – there are resources listed by school and delegates are encouraged to let locals know that these resources exist and where they are located, <https://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/departments/studentservices/wellbeing/index-new.aspx>

Of note, the bullying form will be online beginning this month, Ms. Reuben hopes this will enable OSSI and OSFSE to work together to ensure that there is follow up and the loop is closed when a complaint is filed.

A Q & A session followed Ms. Reuben’s presentation.

**New Business**

Discussion began at 8:08 pm on the *Gun Violence Resolution and Amendments*.

Lynne Harris presented the resolution with the highlighted proposed revisions to the DA and asked for a vote on whether the highlighted version could be used as the starting point – it was agreed by the delegates that the highlighted version with revisions from committee would be used.

Lynne then read the standing rules out loud and explained where the microphones were located for those who wish to speak in favor, against, or simply have a point of order/question. Khristy Kartsakalis managed the motion table and Lynne pointed her out. By agreement the standing rules were adopted. Cynthia Simonson and James Modrick will be the timekeepers. An editor will be tasked with grammatical and editorial issues but will not change the content or intent of the resolution. 30 minutes was given for debate.

Gillian Huebner, chair of the School Climate & Safety Committee, then introduced the resolution. Rob Wilcox from Everytown for Gun Safety provided background for the resolution. He provided 3 very specific data points:

* School violence is committed by students
* Students show signs of violence before they commit an act
* The guns students are using to commit violence are coming from the homes of a parent or close relative

A motion was made to adopt the resolution, it was seconded.

Arguments were made for and against the resolution and motions were submitted to modify portions of the resolution.

Motion #1 – read aloud by Lynne and attached to these minutes; there was a motion to approve motion #1 and it was seconded. This motion would be added under the last bullet in the document; arguments were made for and against. The question was called, seconded and debate was ended. A vote was taken and by a show of Delegate Cards Motion #1 was defeated.

Motion #2 - read aloud by Lynne and attached to these minutes; there was a motion to approve motion #2 and it was seconded. This motion would strike bullet one on page two and modify bullet two on page two. Arguments were made for and against. The question was called, seconded and debate was ended. A vote was taken and by a show of Delegate Cards Motion #2 was defeated.

A motion was made to add 10 minutes to the debate time on the resolution, it was seconded and approved.

Motion #3 - read aloud by Lynne and attached to these minutes; there was a motion to approve motion #3 and it was seconded. This motion would add language to bullet one on page two. Arguments were made for and against. A vote was taken and by a show of Delegate Cards Motion #3 was defeated.

A motion was made to extend time for 2 minutes to vote on the resolution. This motion was approved. The question was called on the resolution, it was seconded and a vote was taken by a show of Delegate Cards. The MCCPTA Resolution Gun Violence Prevention and School Safety was approved.

Tracie Potts presented the nominees for the *Nominating Committee* to the DA:

Michelle Moller, DCC (Blair, Einstein, Kennedy, Northwood, Wheaton)

Matt Swibel, Central (Churchill, RM, Rockville, Poolesville, Wootton)

Debby Orsak (BCC-WJ-Whitman)

Tammy Clark (Damascus, Gaithersburg, Magruder, WM)

Kim Hayden (Clarksburg, NW, SV, QO)

Charisse Scott, NEC-Sherwood (Blake, Paint Branch, Springbrook, Sherwood)

Chris Rutledge, At Large

The slate was approved.

**Officer Reports**

Tracie Potts – reports are in the December 2019 folder. She highlighted the Family Engagement Advisory Team and encouraged the delegates to take the application back to their locals and talk about how important it is and encourage parents to participate.

James Modrick– Presents will feature Rob Wilcox from Everytown at 6 pm before the January DA meeting on January 28, 2020.

**Committee Updates & Announcements**

Laura Mitchell – Operating Budget Testimony Workshop is January 4, 2020 at Parkland MS, she provided an introduction and brief summary. She also introduced a forum on Marijuana: Fact vs. Fiction, that will take place on December 14, at 10 am at Gaithersburg HS.

Carrie Palsson – Membership Chair announced the winners for the September Membership contest, please collect your $25 Giant gift card, Luxmanor ES, Farquhar MS, Quince Orchard HS, Flower Valley ES, Flower Hill ES, Hoover MS, Meadow Hall ES, Sherwood HS, Montgomery Knolls/Pinecrest ES, Fields Road ES

Julie Reiley – Special Education Committee Chair announced her resignation but she will remain on the committee to support the new chair.

Vision Zero Town Hall – Presented by Zoe from MCR, December 14th at 10 a.m., <https://montgomerycountymd.gov/visionzero/>

The meeting was adjourned at 9:04 p.m.