

NOTES of the MCCPTA Board of Directors
Thursday, April 12, 2018
Cafeteria, Wood Middle School

6pm-7:15pm: MCPS Chief Operating Officer Essie McGuire and representatives from consultant MGT conducted a detailed presentation and Q&A on MGT's work to better determine enrolment projections. MCCPTA has requested the PowerPoint to share on our website and e-lists.

President Lynne Harris called the meeting to order at 7:35pm. There was no quorum. The following items were discussed:

Summer Junior Achievement Training: Beginning next year, all 7th graders will complete a 3-week financial literacy program that includes a one-day visit at "Finance Park" at the new Edison High School. 32-40 volunteers a day are needed. MCPS asks MCCPTA to help recruit volunteers for summer training. Corporate volunteers may be used. All must complete JA and child abuse training.

Sexual Harassment and Child Abuse: School Climate chair Gillian Huebner met with Dr. Jonathan Brice, Associate Superintendent of Student and Family Support and Engagement. They reviewed detailed recommendations by PTA parent and child abuse counsellor Jennifer Alvaro. MCPS will respond by April 20. MCCPTA will follow up with a statement. Concerned parents will raise these issues at County Council. The board also discussed child on child abuse and student awareness leading to more reports (ex. Cloverly ES). In the past year MCPS had 2,000 reports, with 10% involving staff and 30-40 ongoing cases. MCPS refers all cases to CPS and MCPD to investigate.

School safety: In the final weeks of the Maryland General Assembly, the Safe Schools Act passed. See summary on board e-list. Also see the e-list summary of the new MCPS Action Plan. An MCPS panel is being planned to explain, likely for the May board meeting.

Topics for Dr. Smith: The following topics were suggested for Monday's Executive Committee meeting with Superintendent Dr. Jack Smith:

- Inconsistent middle school electives (Cynthia noted this was raised at a meeting with Directory of Secondary Curriculum and Districtwide programs Scott Murphy. The central office seemed surprised at the inconsistency.)
- Is there a timeline to apply new enrollment projections to CIP?
- Consider developing a countywide or area new parent orientation for families new to MCPS (review opportunities, how to get info, etc.)

OFFICER AND COMMITTEE REPORTS

VP of Educational Issues (Cynthia Simonson): See report. 22 middle schools will have magnet classes next year. Information goes out to parents in a few weeks. MCPS has 69

regulations, which are different than policies and practices. They are worth reading. See blog re: regular vs weighted GPAs.

President (Lynne Harris): All members are encouraged to submit blog posts.

VP of Programs (Erin Clegg): The “Celebration of Excellence” takes place May 24, 6-9pm at the Silver Spring Cultural Arts Center. Anyone can attend. Tickets are \$30, purchased through Event Brite (linked on MCCPTA.org). E-list posts and a pending Constant Contact also contain the link. The event will highlight awards, reflections and our PTAs! Heavy hors d’oeuvres will be served. Ticket sales are slow – AVPs and Cluster Coordinators, please push this event with your PTAs. Help is needed to create a slideshow. Volunteers are needed for the event. Students can get SSL hours.

VP of Advocacy: In the absence of VP Neal Orringer, President Harris urged members to attend and promote the April 23 Board of Education Candidates forum and new Voter Guides. Information on both is on MCCPTA.org. The voter guides are available in PDF by race as well as a sortable, electronic version. Feedback from candidates was robust and complementary of our in-depth questions. Members are reminded that only voters registered by party can vote in the primary, where many races are decided. Also students who are 17 can vote in the primary if they will be 18 by the General Election.

Awards: Member Oriole Saah noted that all winners except one have been selected (there’s a tie). Also, President Harris mentioned that School Climate chair Gillian Huebner will be honored at the free “Champions for Children” event on April 18, sponsored by the Montgomery County Business Roundtable for Education and MCPS.

Cultural Arts: BOD Secretary Tracie Potts noted that chair Priscilla Peterson encourages PTAs to respond to the survey posted on e-lists about PTA Cultural Arts budgets. VP of Programs Erin Clegg noted that this year’s Reflections Showcase will take place at 6:30pm before the April DA/Elections at Gaithersburg High School. Encourage attendance. Performances may be included. Also, the Performing Arts Festival takes place this Saturday, April 13 at the Rockville Town Center. Performing groups from across the county appear 11am-8pm. This is chair Dave Lechner’s last year organizing the event. A volunteer for next year is needed.

Health & Safety (Chair Sunil Dasgupta): Encourage attendance at the April 22 Mental Health and Wellness forum at Gaithersburg HS. Share online registration links (on MCCPTA.org and e-lists). All PTAs and principals were emailed and encouraged to share via ConnectEd calls. This is the first of what will hopefully be an annual event. Forms and fliers are available in English and Spanish.

Nominating (Chair Paul Morrison): 2018-19 Executive Committee nominees are:
President - Lynne Harris

VP Educational Issues - Cynthia Simonson
VP Administration - Tracie Potts
VP Programs - Erin Clegg
VP Advocacy - Laura Stewart
Secretary DA - Oriole Saah
Secretary BOD - (open – Daria Daniel will run from the floor)
Treasurer - Khristy Kartsakalis

DCC is the only area that has submitted a slate of nominees for AVP and Cluster Coordinators. AVPs are urged to submit the slate by Tue., April 17. You may meet by phone with a minimum of 6 PTA Presidents. Submitting slates reduces the time-consuming process of nominating and electing board members individually during elections on April 24.

Operating (Chair Laura Mitchell): County Council appears poised to fully fund the MCPS budget as recommended by the County Executive. Several MCCPTA members testified this week in support.

Training (Chair Frances Frost): Montgomery County hosts the Maryland PTA Diversity Conference on April 21 at Blake HS. Registration is \$35 and is open to anyone. It includes:

- Legislators from Montgomery and PG counties and Baltimore
- Advocacy by President Lynne Harris & Students for Gun Safety
- Parent panel from Mont, PG, Baltimore
- Diversity roundtables
- “Ed’s not dead” podcast on-site
- Panel: CASA of Maryland, Human Rights Campaign, MD Dept of Education

MCCPTA Spring Training takes place Monday, June 4 at Walter Johnson HS. Encourage new and old officers to attend. Contact Frances if you’d like to lead a session. The board discussed sharing guidebooks and Cluster Coordinator information more widely.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- President Harris showed National PTA’s #EndGunViolence orange t-shirts. The Executive Committee will wear them at the April DA/Elections. Tomorrow is the deadline to purchase online to guarantee delivery before the April 20 walkout.
- CIP chair Laura Stewart said MCPS posted the schedule for school water testing today. All will be completed this school year. Reports are posted for schools tested on Feb. 19. Reports are pending for those tested on Feb. 26. Data for all schools will be reviewed before any remediation decisions are made.
- Cynthia Simonson suggested that notes from this year’s BOE Cluster meetings be collected and preserved.
- The board discussed PTAs for special schools (Rock Terrace, Carl Sandburg, etc.) Some partner with other schools that share the same building. Countywide or community PTAs focused on special populations, not tied to a specific school, can also be established.

- President Harris noted that MCPS Legislative Aide Tricia Swanson will soon leave to become VP of Government Relations for the Montgomery County Chamber of Commerce.

The meeting adjourned at 9:12pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Tracie Potts, BOD Secretary

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