

MINUTES OF THE MCCPTA BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
Thursday, March 31, 2011 at Carver Education Services Center - Auditorium

ATTENDANCE:

Officers: Kristin Tribble, Laurie Halverson, Paul Morrison, Rebecca Smondrowski, Jaimie Jacobson, Debra Lang and Sonya Leaman

Area Vice Presidents, Cluster Coordinators & Committee Chairs: Steve Augustino, Ted Willard, Donna Pfeiffer, Susan Burkinshaw, Janette Gilman, Pam Moomau, David Lechner, Michelle Gluck, Suzanne Weiss, Christopher Kelly, Cheryl Peirce, Mary Cobbett, Jennifer Cope, Deborah Goldman, Jean Schlesinger, Jennifer Chambers, Patti Twigg, Reva Gambrell, Juan Johnson, Beth Kennington, Dawn Albert, Jim Keenan, Kevin David and Laurie Augustino.

Also in Attendance: Kay Romero, Immediate Past President of MCCPTA and President Elect of MDPTA.

OPENING BUSINESS:

Call to Order: At 7:40 pm the meeting began informally. All in attendance introduced themselves. MCCPTA Vice President of Administration Paul Morrison determined that a quorum was reached at 7:50 pm and President Kristin Tribble called the meeting to order.

Kristin noted that due to Committee Chair absences, the agenda should be changed to delete reports by the Ad-Hoc and the By Laws Committees. Attending Committee Chairs asked to add reports for the Cell Phone Work, High School and Membership. Rebecca Smondrowski asked to add a Cluster Report from Quince Orchard. With these changes, the agenda was approved.

The minutes of the previous meetings were reviewed. Dave Lechner moved that the minutes of the February 3 BOD meeting be approved, which was seconded and approved. Donna Pfeiffer moved that the minutes of the March 3 BOD meeting be approved, which was seconded and approved.

Officer Reports:

President:

President Kristin Tribble reported that the Study Circles program had just finished up, although many of the participants intend to continue to build on the relationships that were formed during the past six weeks and put them to use as a cohesive parent leadership group. She will report on their progress as it continues.

In response to a question, Kristin suggested that local PTAs be informally discouraged from participating in the reality television show being proposed, since it could result in good efforts being shown in a bad light.

Vice President – Education Issues:

Laurie Halverson announced that Elisia George will be offering a Parent Involvement Workshop on May 12th – watch for details and please promote.

Laurie and Michelle Gluck testified on March 28th to the Board of Education urging MCPS to challenge children of all ability levels by providing appropriate range of

curriculum offerings at all schools. Their testimonies are linked to the MCCPTA website.

Laurie will be assisting with the upcoming review of Charter School applications.

In response to a question, Kay Romero represented that MDPTA does not support any charter school application that is not cost neutral.

Laurie reported that she had recently sent an update over the Delegates eList regarding the Math Steering Committee, and added that anyone interested in more regular updates should sign-up for such on the form posted on the sign-in table.

Vice President – Legislative Issues:

Rebecca Smondrowski reported that the last day of the state legislature’s session will be April 11th and that she will keep us posted regarding the in-state tuition bill, the budget generally, and the Maintenance of Effort penalty negotiations.

Vice President – Administration:

Paul Morrison reported that most clusters got evening spots on April 5th, 6th or 7th for testifying before the County Council with regards to the Operating Budget – he will send an email with specific times as soon as he receives them.

Paul also sent out the new MD PTA Standards of Continuing Affiliation chart last week, and expects that another will be forwarded this weekend.

Paul reminded everyone that there is an April 29th deadline for nominating their PTA Presidents for the first MCCPTA PTA President of the Year Award.

Treasurer:

Jaimie Jacobson reminded all that all local PTAs need to be operating on the same fiscal year as MDPTA. He reported that our membership now stands at approximately 46,200.

Committee Reports:

Presidents & Principals’ Dinner:

Laurie Halverson shared the draft of the dinner invitation. She reported that nominations for the Lifetime Achievement Awards are due on April 3rd. There followed a discussion regarding the cost of the dinner. Juan Johnson moved to set ticket prices at \$65 for PTA Members and \$75 for non-members and to let schools in good standing know that if they need financial assistance in order to attend the Presidents & Principals Dinner MCCPTA has established a \$4,000 fund to assist locals who cannot afford the ticket price, which motion was seconded and discussed. Pam Moomau moved to delete “in good standing” from the motion, which was seconded and approved. Juan moved to sever the two parts of the motion, which was seconded and approved. The motion to “set ticket prices at \$65 for PTA Members and \$75 for non-members” was not approved. The motion to “to let schools know that if they need financial assistance in order to attend the Presidents & Principals Dinner MCCPTA has established a \$4,000 fund to assist locals who cannot afford the ticket price” was not approved. Laurie Augustino moved to set a \$55 ticket price for the dinner, which was seconded. Discussion followed. Rebecca Smondrowski moved to amend the amount of the ticket price to \$60, which was seconded and approved.

Gifted and Talented:

Committee Chair Michelle Gluck moved that MCPTA co-sponsor (at no cost) GTA (Gifted and Talented Association of Montgomery County)’s College Admissions Night on May 26th, which was seconded and approved.

Operating Budget:

Committee Chair Pam Moomau summarized the current situation as: the County Executive's budget is \$82 million below what the Board of Education had asked for; the County Council approved Spending Affordability Guidelines that would provide \$206 million less to MCPS than the amount the BOE had requested; parent feedback to convince the County Council of the gravity of their current leanings is essential; we should support the principle of Maintenance of Effort. She also noted that on Monday, the Board of Education approved supporting a County request to get a Maintenance of Effort penalty waiver, if a penalty were to be imposed.

Cell Phone Work Group - MCCPTA Rep on the Work Group Suzanne Weiss reported that the overwhelming response from high school PTAs was that high school students be permitted to use their cell phones during lunch. Principals still prefer that the decision be made at each school.

High School Committee – Committee Chair Dave Lechner has received 3 entries for the Prom Safety Video contest, which entries are now in the hands of the judges. Dave intends to look into an MCCPTA Model UN event for next year. Dave is also going to be contacting high school English classes about a Shakespeare video contest or event, probably to be held next year. Dave moved that MCCPTA appropriate \$200 to the High School Committee to further its purposes, and to be taken out of other unused committee funds, which motion was seconded and approved.

Unfinished Business:

MCCPTA Communications: –Discussion continued, accompanied by a proposal to streamline communication for MCCPTA. It was agreed that Board members could review the information for questions to be posed prior to the next BOD meeting.

New Business:

Student Member of the Board Voting Rights – The current Student Member of the Board of Education requested that MCCPTA support the expansion of the items on which he can vote. The Board did not take action on this request.

It was noted that quorum was lost at 9:35 pm.

Cluster Reports: Quince Orchard – Following the removal of a bus driver due to possession and distribution of child pornography, a group of Quince Orchard parents are meeting with school officials in an effort to establish a protocol whereby parents are notified about personnel terminations, and to establish a protocol whereby quad cluster security be contacted when employees are terminated for such causes.

Richard Montgomery - The City of Rockville Planning Commission has set up a subcommittee to review the City's Adequate Public Facility Ordinance (which determines whether and how new development, including the placement of portable classrooms, is approved, and includes a capacity test for schools that is on a different schedule from the County's test). Cheryl Peirce and Cheryl Moss Herman have been attending their meetings and will continue to monitor their progress.

Bethesda/Chevy Chase – MCPS announced that there would be a second middle school constructed for the BCC Cluster. Bruce Crispell will be speaking with the community to explain the process.

Northwest – Good meeting with the Board of Education was held on March 24th. Also, the Northwest Choir will be going to sing at Carnegie Hall!

Paint Branch - Held a very substantive and timely discussion of the operating budget as part of its cluster meeting with the members of the Board of Education.

Seneca Valley – Good meeting with the Board of Education was held on March 10th.

President Kristin Tribble adjourned the meeting at 9:50 pm.

Respectfully submitted by
Debra Lang, Recording Secretary BOD