**DRAFT MINUTES- MCCPTA Board of Directors Meeting**

**August 20, 2020**

**Zoom meeting**

Cynthia Simonson, MCCPTA President, called the meeting to order at 7:03 pm.

A quorum was present. The agenda and June minutes were approved.

**Updates**

Cynthia Simonson presented two options for DA meetings that require voting during the period when we can not meet together indoors.

Option 1

Upgrade Zoom subscription to allow 300 users.

Hold Delegate Assembly via Zoom on September 22, 7:30-9pm

Conduct “poll” voting via Zoom.

Do not adjourn on 22nd but leave as “to be continued.”

Create “sign up genius” for in person vote in Carver Parking Lot on September 23, 7:30-8pm. Must have 35 to make quorum so will plan to conduct as a “drive thru” so there is no “gathering.”

Adjourn meeting at 8pm on September 23 after in person voting has occurred, provided the in-person vote aligns with the zoom polling results.

Option 2

Upgrade Zoom subscription to allow 300 users.

Hold Delegate Assembly via Zoom on September 22, 7:30-9pm

Verify credentials of each participant and anyone that does not meet the requirement is placed in the “waiting room” (or a breakout room) during the vote.

Pass a resolution to allow Zoom to be used for our Delegate Assemblies while we are in the midst of a pandemic (under orders prohibiting gathering).

Use the “poll” voting via Zoom.

Document the process we followed.

When we next meet in person, vote in person to accept this process.

Option 1 is consistent with the process mentioned by MD PTA at their virtual meeting with local PTA presidents. The BOD agreed that Option 1 is the most appropriate process to follow for now. We need to follow this process for any DA with business requiring a vote. (September- budget and officers; October- advocacy priorities, January- likely budget update, bylaws; April- officers)

Cynthia mentioned the email from Essie McGuire that indicated MCPS cannot allow PTAs to meet in school parking lots. However, there are other MCPS parking lots where PTAs can meet (such as CESC and 45 West Gude)

Motion from Melissa Regan- Follow option 1 for the DA meeting in September and then determine the most appropriate options for the following meetings. (2nd by Stephanie Martinez). The motion passed unanimously.

**Officer Reports**

President- Cynthia Simonson- (See written report for details)

Something to celebrate- We have chairs for all of the standing committees, including the reinvigorated Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee.

Specific items from the written report that were mentioned:

MCPS Design Teams are meeting (she is advocating for better information flow)

Supported conversations related to “Families helping Families” to support gift card donations flowing through the foundation

Participated in weekly discussions with Dr. Pollard (Montgomery College) and Dr. McKnight (MCPS) that included representatives from Universities of Shady Grove, Independent Schools, Health and Human Services, and several non-profits to share information as reopening schools is occurring within the county.

Synergy/Student Information System (Replaces MyMCPS) Launch – Participated in discussions with the Chief Technology

Officer to ensure parents have opportunity to explore the new system ahead of actual implementation. This is a much better system than MyMCPS.

VP Educational Issues- Rodney Peele- (See written report for details)

The final plan for the first semester will be released at the BOE meeting on Aug 25.

There are concerns about assessments and standardized testing opportunities – state advocacy is needed in this area.

Unrealistic to expect all content to be delivered and learned in virtual learning environment.

MCPS reestablishing letter grade expectations for students in virtual learning (more information soon).

ESOL committee has been reestablished with Jay Guan as chair. There are concerns about the loss of ESOL Pre-K teachers. MCPS Board of Education approved comprehensive ESOL evaluation and comparison to like counties.

Special Education – Rachel Tate back as chair, with new vice chairs. Committee is planning fall back to school virtual town hall with MCPS.

Gifted Child – new chair Audra Dove. Planning monthly virtual workshop.

VP of Programs- James Modrick- (See written report for details)

James is working on virtual recognition of awardees.

Celebration of Excellence- Universities at Shady Grove is holding a date in late May.

Still need individuals to chair Reflections and Celebration of Excellence.

Revising sponsorship program for the virtual environment.

VP of Advocacy- Laura Stewart- (See written report for details)

Working with Black and Brown Coalition- movement towards their three asks- access to rigorous coursework; access to diverse, effective, experienced teachers; access to effective school leadership. They have added requests for appropriate supports during COVID-19 emergency.

SSP- Growth Plan (additional handout in meeting materials)- Katya Marin is leading our efforts in this area. The planning board’s goal appears to be approval of projects and allowing growth.

Advocacy committee (new chair is Dalbin Osario) is meeting regularly to finalize the draft of the Advocacy Priorities. The committee is trying balance the typical priorities with the priorities arising due to virtual learning environment.

Charter amendments (County Charter)- There are several charter amendments under consideration, most related to how tax increases are approved.

Treasurer- Khristy Kartsakalis- not present, but all financial information is available in the meeting folder

Administrative Committee Chair- Rochelle Fink

Working on the calendar for the year

SOCA- Local PTAs are doing a great job working with Peggy and Yola at MD PTA.

It is important to pay insurance- 30 local PTAs have not paid

We now have a Communications Committee Chair (Yeages Cowan)

**Committees**

Health and Wellness committee annual report is available in the meet8ng materials.

Laura Mitchell mentioned she plans to have the Hidden in Plain Site (Teen Bedroom) trailer at events again this year.

**New Business**

New Cluster Coordinators to affirm: Yeages Cowan (Whitman), Tangela Cuascut (Wootton), Francisco Paganini (Sherwood). Cluster Coordinator resignations- Sherry Altman (Whitman), Heather Caroll-Fisher (Rockville), Melissa Van Hersken (Clarksburg). The new CCs and resignations were accepted.

The dates for DA meetings were in the calendar posted with meeting materials. There was a motion to approved the dates (Fred Azcarate), second by Rodney Peele. Motion passed

Note about BOD meeting date- currently 2nd Thursday of the month- One BOD member has a recurrent conflict due to representing MCCPTA on a county committee that meets the same day. Can we change to the 2nd Wednesday of the month? We need to check the BOE calendar for potential conflicts. After checking the BOE calendar, we will consider changing our meeting dates.

Proposal to change committee name from Diversity and Inclusion to Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion.

Motion- Laura Mitchell, 2nd by Audra Dove. The motion passed.

Proposal to move the Safe Tech subcommittee (of Health and Wellness) to full committee status. Its work has expanded beyond initial scope. Elevation to standing committee will make it easier to coordinate with other committees.

Motion- Jane Lehrman, 2nd Audra Dove. The motion passed.

Laura Stewart introduced the new ad hoc committee- Virtual Learning Family Support- chaired by Gail Ravnitzky

Proposed financial review committee members- Laura Mitchell, Oriole Saah, Melissa Regan.

Motion by Rodney Peele, 2nd by Fred Azcarate. Motion passed

We need a third signed for the checking account, in addition to Khristy and Cynthia. Proposed- Tammy Fox.

Motion- Laura Mitchell, 2nd by Jane Lehrman. Motion passed.

Committee chairs commented on their workplans-

Communications- Yeages Cowan- Need more committee members, particularly those who speak nontraditional languages. The majority of the requested budget is for updating the website.

ESOL- Jay Guan- Need to find the best way to communicate with different communities (language and platform).

High priority- preK ESOL.

Gifted child- Audra Dove- The monthly meetings are important for information sharing (cross cluster communication; invited speakers).

Request for Zoom account access for meetings (Cynthia indicated we may purchase up to 10 subscriptions; AVPs and officers can share with committees)

Committee priority- equitable access to GT, not based on geography. Committee will work with ESOL and Special Education on some advocacy issues.

Membership- Carrie Palsson-

Two options this year- Member Hub and traditional

There is a vice chair for engagement this year (Tracie Potts)- Working on how we recruit members in a virtual environment.

The $700 budget is mainly for awards. Need new ideas for membership awards.

Operating Budget- Laura Mitchell

The operating budget testimony workshop is usually the main budget item. The virtual event will be less expensive.

Currently requesting $1000

Safe Technology- Lisa Cline- The committee has 53 members.

The requested $1400 is for licensing fees for movies.

Bylaws- Kellie Scholar-Reynolds-

Bylaws need to be updated this year.

Other goals- standing rules; bylaws handbook.

Celebration of Excellence- James Modrick- Hope to have an in-person event. Although the cost is high (AV and food), it is offset by sponsorships and tickets for an approximately net $0 event.

Reflections- James Modrick- Budget is for showcase, awards and recognition.

Theme this year “I matter because”

The meeting adjourned at 8:52 pm

Minutes submitted by Kellie Schoolar Reynolds, MCCPTA Secretary for BOD