

**Minutes MCCPTA Delegates Assembly
April 27, 2010
Carver Educational Service Center**

Call to Order:

President Kay Romero called the meeting to order at 7:40 pm.

While Delegates were continuing to check in for voting, Kay introduced Dale Ryan, Presidents and Principals Dinner Point of Contact, to discuss and explain the dinner and tickets.

Kay next introduced Pam Loebach, the MCCPTA Office Manager, so that Delegates could see the person they talked to when they phoned the office.

Mission Statement:

Juan Johnson, VP for Administration, read the PTA Mission Statement.

Approval of Agenda and March 23, 2010 Minutes:

The agenda was amended to add under Unfinished Business “May Delegates Assembly.” It was approved as amended by a voice vote.

The minutes from March 23, 2010 were reviewed and amended to correct a typographical error in the 4th paragraph under Reports: Operating Budget – the word “redactions” was changed to “reductions.” The minutes were approved as amended on a voice vote.

Treasurer’s Report:

MCCPTA Treasurer, Jaimie Jacobson, reviewed the treasurer’s report. He noted that sponsorship for the Presidents and Principals dinner was off a little, but he was hopeful that any shortfall would be made up by paid tickets. He is hopeful that we would not need to use any reserves. He noted that dues are still coming in, and he asked the Delegates to remind their PTAs to send in their dues. He also noted that the MCCPTA committees had spent money carefully this year.

The audit of the MCCPTA books is done. It will be available in the MCCPTA office for review by anyone that is interested. He reminded the Delegates to tell their PTAs that a financial review must be done of their books every year, and a copy needs to be sent to MCCPTA and MD PTA. He also reminded them that 990s need to be filed annually with the IRS and a copy sent to MD PTA.

In his review of the Profit and loss statement, he noted that for a not for profit organization, we are doing very well.

A Delegate asked him about the items on the statement under the CDs, and Jaimie replied that there was a change of banks, and that is why some have zero dollars.

There being no further questions, Kay Romero stated that the treasurer's report would be filed.

At this point, Kay introduced Vicki Rafel, Parliamentarian, who reviews the election process. She explained that if there were any nominations from the floor, they would be set aside and each candidate would be given 2 minutes to explain their qualifications. Non contested positions could be decided by a voice vote, but any contested positions would require a paper ballot. She further explained that after we voted on officers, which everyone voted for, we would then proceed to vote by Areas for Area Vice Presidents and by Cluster for Cluster Coordinators.

Kay noted that if we should need to use paper ballots, the talliers would be Liz Wheeler, Laura Wibeto and Lee Ann Doerflinger.

Elections of 2010-2011 MCCPTA Officers, AVPs and Cluster Coordinators:

Officer Elections:

Kay asked the Delegates if they wanted to vote the officers in as a slate if there were no nominations from the floor. This passed on a voice vote. She then read each office and the name of the nominee and asked if there were any nominations from the floor. Ted Willard nominated DeBora King for VP for Programs. DeBora accepted the nomination. Since there were no contested positions, a vote was taken for the slate, which passed on voice vote.

Area Vice President Elections:

Kay read the nominee for each Area Vice President and then asked for nominees from the floor. Sally Taber nominated Jennifer Chambers from the floor for AVP for the DCC, which had no previous nominee. None of the AVP positions were contested, and all were voted in by voice vote.

Cluster Coordinator Elections:

Kay read the nominees for one cluster at a time, asking for nominees from the floor. The following nominations were made from the floor:

Sally Taber nominated Susan Fleck for Blair Cluster Coordinator.

Kelly Giblin nominated Kelly Giblin and Jean Claude Zenklusen for Einstein Cluster Coordinator.

Liz Wheeler nominated Cheryl Moss Herman, Christopher Kelly and Cheryl Peirce for Richard Montgomery Cluster Coordinators.

Frances Frost nominated Frances Frost for Kennedy Cluster Coordinator.

Aissa Sires nominated Aissa Sires for Rockville Cluster Coordinator.

Mary Abe and Stephanie Helsing were nominated for Northwood Cluster Coordinators.

Ted Willard nominated Todd Powell, Janet Sanchez and Marcia Tivoli for Clarksburg Cluster Coordinators, Dawn Lee for Damascus Cluster Coordinator, Patrick Dunn, Beatrice Hanson and Annie Ahmed for Magruder Cluster Coordinators and Sumbal Sheldon for Watkins Mill Cluster Coordinator.

Within each cluster, there were no more than three cluster coordinators nominated, so each cluster voted by voice vote and all nominees were voted into office.

The complete list of elected Officers, Area Vice Presidents and Cluster Coordinators is:

NOMINATIONS FOR MCCPTA OFFICERS 2010-2011
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President	Kristin Tribble
Vice President for Educational Issues	Laurie Halverson
Vice President for Administration	Paul Morrison
Vice President for Programs	DeBora King
Vice President for Legislation	Rebecca Smondrowski
Treasurer	Jaimie Jacobson
Recording Secretary, Board of Directors	Debra Lang
Recording Secretary, Delegates Assembly	Sonya Leaman

NOMINATIONS FOR AREA VICE PRESIDENTS & CLUSTER COORDINATORS 2010 - 2011
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Bethesda-Chevy Chase/

Walter Johnson/

Wheaton/Whitman

Area Vice President: Therese Salus

Down County Consortium:

Blair/Einstein/

Kennedy/Northwood

Area Vice President: Jennifer Chambers

Churchill/

Richard Montgomery/

Rockville/Wootton

Area Vice President: Andrea Q. Bernardo

Bethesda-Chevy Chase

Cluster Coordinators:

Craig Brown

Joy White

Mary Cobbett

Walter Johnson

Cluster Coordinators:

Jennifer Cope

Barbara Ferry

Montgomery Blair

Cluster Coordinator:

Susan Fleck

Einstein Cluster Coordinators:

Kelly Giblin

Jean Claude Zenklusen

Churchill Cluster Coordinator:

OPEN

Richard Montgomery

Cluster Coordinators:

Cheryl Moss Herman

Christopher Kelly

Cheryl Peirce

Wheaton Cluster Coordinator:

OPEN

Kennedy Cluster Coordinator:

Frances Frost

Rockville Cluster Coordinator:

Aissa Sires

Whitman Cluster Coordinators:

Deborah Goldman
Keith Parsky
Jean Schlesinger

Northwood Cluster Coordinators:

Mary Abe
Stephanie Helsing

Wootton Cluster Coordinators:

Karen Collishaw
Rich Edelman
Jennifer Pories

**Clarksburg/Damascus/
Gaithersburg/Magruder/
Watkins Mill**

Area Vice President: Ted Willard

**Blake/Paint Branch/
Springbrook (Northeast
Consortium)/Sherwood**

Area Vice President: Patti Twigg

**Northwest/Poolesville/
Quince Orchard/
Seneca Valley**

Area Vice President: Juan Johnson

Clarksburg Cluster Coordinators:

Todd Powell
Janet Sanchez
Marcia Tivoli

Damascus Cluster Coordinator:

Dawn Lee

Gaithersburg Cluster Coordinators:

Laurie Augustino
Valerie Rivers

Magruder Cluster Coordinators:

Patrick Dunn
Beatrice Hanson
Annie Ahmed

Watkins Mill Cluster Coordinators:

Martha Crews
Sumbal Sheldon

Blake Cluster Coordinators:

Jonathan Arias
DeBora King

Paint Branch**Cluster Coordinator:**

Patti Twigg

Springbrook Cluster Coordinator:

OPEN

Sherwood Cluster Coordinator:

Virginia Twombly

Northwest Cluster Coordinators:

Susan Burkinshaw
Beth Kennington
Bob Murphy

Poolesville Cluster Coordinator:

OPEN

Quince Orchard Cluster Coordinators:

Kevin Farragher
Jim Keenan
Rebecca Smondrowski

Seneca Valley Cluster Coordinators:

Scott Bogren
Kevin David
Ed Vigezzi

Unfinished Business:

Carol Salsbury, VP for Programs, read a tribute to Kay and presented her with flowers, since this was her last DA.

Proposed MCCPTA Resolution on Middle School Advanced Courses:

Ted Willard, Curriculum Committee Co-Chair, introduced the resolution presented to the Delegates at the March DA. He explained why the committee felt it was necessary. Coming from committee, it did not need to be seconded.

Lynn Hemphill, Parkland MS Delegate, introduced a motion to replace under Resolved, letter E with:

At the start of each middle school course that can yield high school credit, MCPS should provide students and parents with clear information on how the student's grade will affect the high school GPA. Rules concerning such decisions as repeating a class later, or declining to take a final exam, as well as the impact of these decisions on the GPA, should be clearly stated in a uniform, county-wide policy. Families should be permitted to accept or reject high school credits earned in middle school through the first month of ninth grade;

Her motion was seconded.

She spoke to her motion, saying that at Parkland, a lot of these advanced classes are already being offered, and that her child has taken these classes, and there is a lot of confusion among the parents of these students. Many do not realize they will affect the student's high school transcript. She feels that clear guidelines are needed.

Beth Kennington, Northwest Cluster Coordinator, opposed the amendment. She felt it was in opposition to established procedures for receiving credit.

Andrea Bernardo, AVP for Churchill, Richard Montgomery, Rockville, Wootton clusters, supported the amendment. She has served on the Math Workgroup, and feels the current push for all students to complete Algebra by 8th grade is unrealistic, and the consequences will not be good and wants MCPS to take responsibility for MS classes that give HS credit.

Therese Salus, AVP for Bethesda-Chevy Chase, Walter Johnson, Wheaton and Whitman clusters, supported the amendment. She pointed out that this also affected students that took foreign language in 6th grade.

Robert Ostlund, Twinbrook ES Delegate, spoke in favor of the amendment, stating that parents do not always understand these issues and their consequences for their students.

Robyn Solomon, Hoover MS President, spoke in favor of the amendment, but questioned why we were doing this at all. She felt we needed to tell MCPS to stop pushing middle school kids into high school classes.

The motion to amend passed on a voice vote.

Laurie Halverson, Churchill Cluster Coordinator, asked what would happen if a school only had a small number of students for a class section? Ted responded that MCPS does want classes as full as possible, but the point of the resolution was to always have at least one section of each class and level.

Dawn Trahern, Redland MS Delegate, questioned if we should be doing this at all, since at her school they are only offering a handful of these classes.

Frances Frost, Bel Pre/Strathmore ES President, spoke in support of the overall resolution, and noted that it was necessary to offer on level as well as advanced classes.

Barbara Zellers, Damascus HS Delegate, stated that MCPS needed to continue to offer on level classes.

Ted Willard offered a motion to:

In A, B and D, change "offer" to provide."

The motion was seconded.

Beth Kennington, Northwest Cluster Coordinator, asked if we would be voting on this resolution tonight? Kay responded yes and that the proposed resolution had been introduced at the March 23rd Delegates Assembly.

Sheryl Friedlander, Garrett Park ES, asked for a clarification, wanting to know why so many above level classes were needed, and if all the students in MCPS were above level?

The motion to amend passed on a voice vote.

Dinitri Dantley, Farquhar MS Delegate, spoke in favor of the resolution, but asked why B and D were both necessary, since they seemed redundant. Ted responded that they were both necessary to make sure on level classes were available to students.

Dawn Trahern, Redland MS Delegate, moved to:

Delete D.

The motion was seconded.

She was concerned that with the current economic climate, and the limited resources available to schools at the moment, that it was counterproductive.

Frances Frost, Bel Pre/Strathmore ES President, spoke against the motion, stating that if there were only 10 students for a class they still deserve to have a class offered on the appropriate level for them.

Barbara Zellers, Damascus HS Delegate, spoke against the motion, stating that she felt it guaranteed options and other wise all kinds might end up in the same class.

Steve Augustino, Gaithersburg Cluster Coordinator, spoke in favor of the amendment, because he was concerned that leaving it in would cause MCPS to refuse the entire resolution due to limited resources.

Laura Wibeto, Darnestown ES Delegate, spoke in favor of the amendment, agreeing with Steve that it would turn MCPS off.

Ted Willard offered a substitute motion:

In D, replace the first line with "On level courses should be provided even if the number"

The motion was seconded.

Richard Hart, Ritchie Park ES President, spoke against the substitute amendment, stating that it seemed to convolute the intent.

Steve Augustino, Gaithersburg Cluster Coordinator, spoke against the motion.

Robert Ostlund, Twinbrook ES Delegate, spoke in favor of deleting D.

Margaret Mahoney, Chevy Chase ES Delegate, spoke in favor of the amendment, stating that we needed to push for both on level and advanced classes even if MCPS will not give them to us, we need to tell them we want them.

The substitute motion passed on a voice vote.

Discussion was now returned to the motion to delete D.

Ted Willard spoke in opposition to deleting D.

The motion failed on a voice vote.

Elizabeth Torrey, Bethesda ES Delegate, asked what the intent of F was? She is concerned that there is already too much testing going on. Ted replied that the data from testing is very valuable.

Aissa Sires, Maryvale ES Delegate, asked why in part E, why only certain classes are mentioned. Ted explained that some schools offer only certain classes, and the classes mentioned in E are offered by all schools.

A vote was taken on the entire resolution as amended, and passed on a voice vote.

Resolution on Middle School Advanced Courses

Whereas:

1. Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS) is currently developing and piloting advanced courses in English, Social Studies, and Science for middle schools with a goal of improving the level of instruction and program offerings in middle school;
2. The school system already provides options for students to take high school mathematics courses and foreign language courses and a few schools also offer some electives for high school credit;
3. The school system has been encouraging students to take high school mathematics classes in middle schools with a target of eventually having at least eighty percent of students to have taken Algebra I before entering high school. However there have been a number of reports that students who successfully completed Algebra I in middle school have then struggled with more advanced mathematics in high school. There have been sufficient concerns about the current strategy in mathematics that a work group has been formed to reevaluate it;
4. At some of the schools that have been piloting the English, Social Studies, and Science courses, nearly all of the students in the school have been expected to take the advanced course;
5. MCPS has made plans to allow students who get an A or a B in the eighth grade Advanced English class to get a high school elective credit and students who pass the eighth grade Honors Earth Systems Science class to get a high school science credit;
6. The proposed Honors Earth Systems Science would be a new course which covers in a single year the majority of middle school and high school ideas about Earth Science as described in the Maryland Voluntary State Curriculum, which is more than is currently required in either the existing middle school curriculum or existing High School non-honors Earth Systems Science course;
7. MCPS considered offering Honors English 9 to eighth graders, but decided instead to create an Advanced English class that is intended to prepare students for Honors English 9. Students getting an A or B in the course would receive a high school elective credit. Since there is no high school course that corresponds to Advanced English, it would be the only High School course that is available solely at Middle Schools;
8. A great deal of data on student achievement in Mathematics and Reading in middle school is collected and analyzed every year. For example, students take the Maryland State Assessments (MSAs) in Reading and Math in sixth, seventh, and eighth grade. MCPS also analyzes the end of unit assessments in Mathematics. However, other than a Maryland State Assessment in Science for eighth graders, there is little data collected and analyzed on the achievement of middle school students in English, Social Studies, and Science;
9. Not all students are ready to work at an advanced level and would be better served by having on-level course options in middle school;
10. Receiving high school credit for a course may not always be in a student's best interest.

Therefore be it Resolved:

- A. MCPS should provide Advanced Level English, Social Studies, and Science at each of its thirty-eight middle schools so that students who would like the challenge they provide have the opportunity to take them;
- B. MCPS should also continue to provide on-level sections of its English, Social Studies, and Science courses at each of its thirty-eight schools so that students and their families have an option of courses to take;
- C. MCPS should provide more information about Advanced Level English, Social Studies, and Science that clearly describes what the differences are between them and the existing on-level courses;
- D. On level courses should be provided in each school even if the number of students who wish to take it is fewer than would normally be necessary to offer a class;
- E. At the start of each middle school course that can yield high school credit, MCPS should provide students and parents with clear information on how the student's grade will affect the high school GPA. Rules concerning such decisions as repeating a class later, or declining to take a final exam, as well as the impact of these decisions on the GPA, should be clearly stated in a uniform, county-wide policy. Families should be permitted to accept or reject high school credits earned in middle school through the first month of ninth grade;
- F. MCPS should develop better mechanisms for monitoring how much students are learning in English, Social Studies, and Science at all grade levels, but particularly at the middle school level.

May DA:

Paul Morrison, Quince Orchard Cluster Coordinator, offered a motion:

Eliminate the May 25, 2010 DA from the schedule.

The motion was seconded and passed on a voice vote.

Reports:

Operating Budget:

Pam Moomau, Operating Budget Committee Chair, gave an update on the operating budget. She stated that the County Executive is proposing more cuts to the budget proposed by the Superintendent, due to decreased revenue. MCPS had found a way to lessen the impact to classrooms with previous cuts, but with these new proposed cuts, it may be difficult to maintain that goal. The entire County budget is facing further cuts.

She told the Delegates that it is important for us to continue our advocacy, and in particular, each community needs to look at the suggested cuts and find any that may of particular importance to them and advocate to the BOE for those items.

A Delegate asked where the list of possible cuts was located? Pam responded that it could be found on the MCPS website. On the Operating Budget page there is a link to the summary of potential budget reductions.

Pam also noted there are also possible revenue enhancements being discussed by the County Council, so again, each community should look at those and see if there is anything they might want to support.

The timeline for decisions is within the next couple of weeks.

CIP Committee

Steve Augustino, CIP Committee Chair, said that Montgomery County had recently received a warning that its debt service may be too much which could jeopardize the bond rating. Bonds fund our school construction.

He reminded the Delegates that the summer CIP requests are due by June 1, and he would be posting to the BOD listserv information to assist Cluster Coordinators in preparing those submissions.

He also discussed the upcoming new round of FACT score assessments. The new assessments will be done in the CIP Budget after this upcoming one, but first they need to hire a consultant and establish the criteria to use. It is important to note that the current list of modernizations will not be affected by this. Those projects will be completed first, and the new schools to be assessed will be appended to the current list.

A report on this will be released Friday, April 30, 2010, and Steve said he would put something out on the BOD listserv related to the report and to help Cluster Coordinators gather information.

Spring Training:

Kay reminded the Delegates about the upcoming Spring Training, on June 7, 2010 at Blake HS. A flyer was among the handouts, and is also available on the MCCPTA website on the homepage.

Officer Reports:

Kay reminded the Delegates that July 17, 2010 will be the MD PTA Summer Leadership Training. It is a full day, and more information will be forthcoming. It will be held at the same location as last year. She read a list of the Montgomery County PTAs that won a free registration for the training: Fairland Elementary School, Gaithersburg Elementary School, Newport Mill Middle School, and Westland Middle School. Finally, MSDE has asked MD PTA to complete a survey regarding Suspension and Expulsion. The survey is on our website, and also a link to the online survey was sent out via the Bulletin listserv. The final report on the findings will be available in early July, and she encouraged the Delegates to remind their PTA members to please fill out the survey.

Adjourn:

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:26 pm.

Respectfully submitted, Patti Twigg, MCCPTA secretary for DA.