

**MCCPTA Delegates Assembly
Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, January 24, 2012
7:30 pm, Carver Auditorium**

Call to Order

Kristin Tribble, President, called DA meeting to order at 7:40 pm.

PTA Mission Statement

Kevin David, Seneca Valley Cluster Coordinator, read the PTA mission statement.

Welcome and Introductions

- Introduction of MCCPTA Officers.
- Kristin thanked Debra Lang and Steve Augustino for organizing the Delegate Assembly Program on "Growth: Where Do We Go from Here?"
- Cluster Coordinators were asked to contact PTA's that weren't in compliance with MDPTA.

Approval of Agenda with an addition

Motion to add the Curriculum Committee to MCCPTA Committee Reports.

* With this addition and no objections the agenda was approved.

Approval of November Minutes

Moved to approve the draft minutes. Motion seconded and carried by voice vote.

Officer Reports

VP Educational Issues – Laurie Halverson

- No updates.

Treasurer's Report – Jaimie Jacobson

- 85 more members since the last meeting.
- 38,000 members and we are tracking ahead of last year's pace.
- Getting ready for Presidents and Principals dinner.
 - o Don't hesitate to encourage local businesses to make donations to our annual event.
- Contact the MCCPTA office or Jaimie if you need help with audits.

MCCPTA Committee Reports

Membership – Janette Gilman, Chair

- Deadline for dues payment on March 31, 2012.
 - o Will use MCCPTA data for dues to determine who earns awards.
 - o One payment goes to MD for MD & Nationals dues. The other payment goes to MCCPTA.

Bylaws - Janette Gilman, Acting Chair

- Received and reviewed amendment from NEC.
- At February 2 meeting Janette will present alternate wording to MCCPTA Board of Directors.
 - o The board will look at it and see what isn't working.
 - o Bring amendment to Delegate Assembly and everyone can take it back to the locals.
 - o Vote on bylaws amendment in March 2012.

Operating Budget – Jean Schlesinger, Chair

- Jean wanted to clarify for everyone on understanding the per pupil funding after listening to numbers quoted during testimonies in early January.
 - o There was a drop of about \$500.
- The numbers are down, but not \$1500 only \$500.
- For schools that testified if you have anything you want to follow up on please put in writing to your board member.
- The Board of Education will take final action on February 14, 2012.
- February 15, Operating Budget Forum with County Council members and Board of Education members.
 - o Invite your community to ask questions and find out changes that will be made.
- January 31, County Executive Forum (Eastern Montgomery Regional Services)

CIP – Steve Augustino, Chair

- CIP recommendation adopted by the Board of Education back in November 2011.
- County will go back to delaying all high school modernizations.
- CIP hearing with the County Council on February 7 & 9 (early this year).
 - o Main issues are about the funding and our share of the overall pie.
- Steve will work closely with the County Education Committee.

Nominating – Sumbal Sheldon, Chair

- Sumbal once again introduced herself and the representatives on the nominating committee from each cluster. Each committee member is holding area meetings. Please make contact if you or someone you know is interested in a role as an officer with MCCPTA, cluster coordinator, or area vice president.

Curriculum – Ted Willard, Chair

- February 8 @ 7pm Curriculum Committee meeting.
- Submit nominations for PTA President of the Year.

Unfinished Business

New Business

Proposed Resolution – Preferred Choice in Consortium High Schools

- Will not vote at this meeting, just debating.

Dave Lechner gave background on resolution. Asked delegates to take resolution to locals to share and come back next month to discuss.

**Proposed Resolution on
Preferred Choice in Consortium High Schools
Submitted by the MCCPTA High School Committee**

Whereas:

- 1.** The Board of Education of Montgomery County Public Schools established “preferred choice” as the system by which students are assigned to the Northeast Consortium High Schools: James Hubert Blake High School, Paint Branch High School and Springbrook High School;
- 2.** The Board of Education established by its Resolutions 799-96, 711-99, 37-00, 335-03, and 482-05 a process to implement preferred choice, by which students rank high schools in order of preference; assignment to the base area high school is assured if that high school is the first choice; and assignment to a non-base area high school choice is subject to utilization, ever-FARMS and gender parameter conditions;
- 3.** The Board of Education’s purposes in establishing and maintaining the preferred choice system and process are to manage demographic change, eliminate “minority” group isolation and support academic performance;
- 4.** In 2011, 97 percent of students were assigned to their first choice preferences and MCPS officials stated that

MCPS' goal is to maximize first choice assignments;

5. In 2011, the number of students attending certain Northeast Consortium High Schools exceeded the capacity specified by the Board of Education's utilization parameter condition, while the number of students in another High School was well below capacity (adversely affecting its budget, teacher complement and programming opportunities for students); Average enrollment at 2 of the schools within the Northeast Consortia has been over 300 students over capacity, while enrollment at a third school within the Northeast Consortia has been more than 300 students "under" capacity, leading to canceled classes in Chorus, Show Choir, Multivariable Calculus, and IB Higher Math, as well as doubled up (combined) classes in Upper level language classes in Arabic, Italian, and German, IB and AP combo classes in science: Biology, Chemistry, and Physics C, and IB and AP combo class for Studio Arts.

6. A pre-existing imbalance among the High Schools in the proportion of their populations comprised of ever-FARMS students was perpetuated by MCPS' 2011 implementation of the preferred choice process;

7. Academic performance appears to be impacted negatively by the preferred choice process as implemented by MCPS;

8. The process, algorithm, and parameters of Northeast Consortium High School assignment, as actually implemented by MCPS, are not transparent to the students, parents or schools participating in the process, or to the Board of Education;

9. The purposes established by the Board of Education for the Northeast Consortium preferred choice process continue to be vitally important purposes of Montgomery County Public Schools and the Montgomery County community;

Therefore be it resolved that:

A. The school utilization, ever-FARMS and gender parameter conditions affecting assignment to non-base schools are all necessary factors to achieve the purposes of a fair consortium choice process.

B. Schools that do not receive a high number of "first choice" requests should not be penalized with lost curriculum offerings or lower teaching slots or operating budget allocations, so that they can attract and retain "first choice" requests during the next year.

C. MCPS should implement the preferred choice process in conformity with the rules and parameters established by the Board of Education Resolutions;

D. MCPS should publish a detailed description of the process and rules by which it implements the preferred choice process, including the manner in which the parameter conditions are applied, and report on the assignment results each year.

E. The Board of Education should oversee implementation of the preferred choice process to ensure that it is implemented in accordance with the Board of Education Resolutions and that its purposes are achieved.

Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 8:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Shebra Evans

Delegate Assembly Recording Secretary