

**NOTES AND MINUTES of the MCCPTA Board of Directors**  
**Wednesday, January 3, 2017 – 7pm**  
**Carver Educational Services Center (CESC) Auditorium**

The meeting was called to order at 7:10pm by President Lynne Harris. In the absence of a quorum, the meeting was recessed. The following announcements were made:

- **Mandatory training:** Lynne urged all board members to complete training ASAP and reminded them it was implemented to prevent theft after last year's incident. Former treasurer Lisa Betts will be sentenced Jan. 17. Lynne is working on a Victim Impact Statement. The impact on Greencastle ES may total \$145,000 in unaccounted expenses, as there are no financial documents for 5 years when Betts had access to accounts. \$4,000 in overdraft fees were incurred.
- **Mental Health Forum:** Planned for spring. Volunteers are needed.
- **CTE Task Force:** Two members (Blake Cluster Coordinator & Forest Knolls delegate) will attend CTE retreat focused on additional high school programs. Volunteers are also needed to weigh in on the future of Edison HS, including transportation issues. All 7th graders will attend "Finance Park," the Junior Achievement financial awareness program now based at Edison. MCPS needs adult volunteers to help as not all middle schools can bring adequate staff.
- **Minority Scholars Program:** Active in all high schools except Rockville and Poolesville. Volunteers are needed to attend monthly task force meetings at MCE in Rockville. Lynne recommends sponsoring their upcoming retreat.
- **Evidence of Learning Task Force:** This is an upcoming spring MD state effort involving all school districts. MCCPTA representatives are needed for 3-4 meetings, 4-6PM, dates unknown. (Two people are interested.)
- **Washington Post Awards:** Teacher & Principal of the Year volunteer judges are needed by tomorrow, Jan. 4. Selection is expected to be conducted online. One person expressed interest.
- **Educational data:** More data from our MPIA request has been posted on the board e-list. VP of Educational Issues Cynthia Simonson plans to produce a video to explain.

Quorum was achieved at 7:36pm. The meeting resumed. The agenda and minutes were unanimously approved.

**MCPS Chief Financial Officer Nicola Diamond provided an update and answered questions on the Superintendent's Recommended FY19 Operating Budget.** Here's a summary of her key points:

- The budget isn't just about numbers, it outlines a plan for the school district focused on students, classrooms and schools.
- MCPS will likely be asked to seek \$9 million *more* savings due to the county's massive and unexpected revenue shortfall.
- The Superintendent is committed to NO classroom cuts.
- Data shows great progress among students.
- This is a *system* budget, not a school budget. Allocations for individual schools will be made after it's approved. Effective feedback/testimony should focus on priorities: what's in the budget that you like? What's missing?
- The first ES enrollment dip in 8 years will result in classroom teachers reassigned to MS/HS, where enrollment is growing.
- The "Budget in Brief" provides simplified bullet points on reductions. See the full budget for more detail.
- \$442,000 is recommended to support two new psychologist positions.
- The budget converts Assistant School Administrators (ASAs) at three schools to Assistant Principals (APs), with a 9% pay increase. ASAs are 11-month employees who can only observe teachers. APs are 12-month employees who can evaluate teachers. Individual ASAs must re-apply to become Aps and may need additional certification.
- Curriculum/AEI cuts reflect MCPS purchasing resources to enhance its curriculum instead of using classroom teachers to develop them. Most districts purchase curriculum. MCPS writes its own but will supplement with existing resources. Teachers would still develop their own lesson plans to teach that curriculum.
- Direct reports for schools will change. Supervisors will be replaced with teams including various expertise (special ed, etc.) to support entire school communities, not just the principal.
- Re central office reductions: "We want you to trust us on that. We are NOT going to create gaps in services."

### **NEW BUSINESS - Budget**

Treasurer Cheryl Peirce reviewed possible changes due to \$27,908 insurance payment. Members should get input and be prepared to vote on a full revised budget in February.

Motion: Ms. Peirce made a motion to add \$1,200 to sponsor the Minority Scholars program spring retreat. The motion was seconded and approved unanimously.

Motion: VP of Administration Matt Swibel made a motion to increase the \$12,000 budgeted expense for the year-end event to \$24,000, and income (from ticket sales and sponsorships) from \$12,000 to \$15,000. It was seconded and approved unanimously.

## **NEW BUSINESS - Advocacy**

The latest version of our Candidate Questionnaire is posted in tonight's meeting materials. Please weigh in via the board e-list. VP of Advocacy Neal Orringer's committee is discussing how to distribute replies (hardcopy, digital, etc.) More education is needed. PTAs and clusters are encouraged to host candidate forums.

The meeting adjourned at 8:58 PM.

*Prepared by BOD Secretary Tracie Potts and DA Secretary Oriole Saah*