

MINUTES OF THE MCCPTA DELEGATES ASSEMBLY  
January 24, 2017

*Attending: President Paul Gellar, VP Administration, VP Programs Melissa McKenna,  
Cluster Coordinators, and Delegates*

President Paul Gellar called the meeting to order at 7:44 pm.

AFFIRMATION

Paul recognized former MCCPTA CIP chairperson Cheryl Pierce for her dedicated PTA work over the years.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

The agenda was approved.

APPROVAL/REVIEW OF MINUTES

One correction of November 22, 2016 minutes was made: Under the Officer Reports, VP of Programs, the operating budget hearing date was corrected from January 12 to January 11. Minutes were then approved.

OLD BUSINESS

A discussion was held about the development of the MCCPTA advocacy priorities for 2016 -2017 and how the priorities guide PTA advocacy with the board of education, the county council, and at the state level. Paul explained how the advocacy goals are addressed through efforts of local volunteers and ultimately powered through funding; he noted that PTA is not always successful moving issues forward. The role of technology in elementary schools and overall budget of technology in schools was discussed.

The topic of student protestors and inconsistencies in their treatment was brought up. Paul Gellar discussed the superintendent's position on safety and student protestors.

A correction was noted on bullet five, in the "In Our Community" section of the advocacy priorities. The entire phrase should read: Expand academic and enrichment after-school programs through community partnerships and expand access to transportation for extracurricular programs and Saturday School.

When asked why the priorities did not call for a building moratorium until the school district could catch up with growth, Melissa McKenna explained that bullet three under the "In our Buildings" addressed such an issue but the advocacy position was generally phrased in order to best accommodate discussions about the subdivision staging policy.

The advocacy positions, as amended with the correction, were approved.

Paul Gellar said that a PDF of the final priorities would be posted to the MCCPTA website.

A discussion followed regarding problems with joining the listserv. The executive committee was asked to resolve the listserv issues prior to going to an all-electronic distribution of MCCPTA documents.

#### NEW BUSINESS

Stephen Wilson noted that a nominating committee had been formed, and the committee members require approval by the delegates. He noted that there was a delay in finding a delegate to complete the slate. Therefore, he was not able to present the slate of members prior to the assembly, as is required in bylaws. Nevertheless, he asked the assembly to consider the members currently presented: Jennifer Cope, Norman Peterson, Likan Liang, Chris Rutledge, Adam Lee, JoAnn Burl, and Kellie Schoolar-Reynolds.

There was a question as to whether additional members might join later. Stephen Wilson said that this was not allowed under the bylaws. The Nominating Committee was approved. Stephen Wilson indicated that he would forward pertinent materials to the committee to support its work. None of the officers are involved in the committee's work.

Paul Gellar noted that Crystal Baker, recording secretary, had officially resigned her position for personal reasons. Paul indicated the need for a new secretary and that MCCPTA is looking for a volunteer to fill this position.

Melissa McKenna raised the issue of bell times, noting that the MCEA was considering a request to the board of education to make changes. Melissa suggested that MCCPTA might leave high school and middle school bell times as is, but consider moving bell times for elementary schools. Tier two schools have a particularly late dismissal times. She noted that it would take \$14 million to revise the tier two bus bell times. The 20-minute later start at the high schools was negated for some students, e.g., sports teams sometimes had a 5 am start for practice. Some elementary schools with PET programs were releasing three-year olds for dismissal at 5 pm.

A number of hardships with the current bell times were noted for students, parents, and teachers. Unintended consequences, such as the necessity for unaffordable before and after care for elementary students, were discussed. Some elementary schools are receiving unattended students before school starts.

The challenge of finding affordable before and after care for developmentally challenged students was noted as was the difficulty in having the school system adjust bus drop-offs to accommodate the needs of these students.

Middle school enrichment programs might not meet forecasted attendance as these students are called upon to supervise younger siblings.

#### COMMITTEE AND CLUSTER REPORTS

These reports were referenced for review from the meeting packet.

#### OFFICER REPORTS

Stephen Wilson noted the deadline for SOCA and Melissa McKenna noted the need for SOCA compliance for PTAs to participate in the Reflections program.

Melissa McKenna referenced the Feb 7 testimony date for CIP before the county council. Because this is a n amendment year, there is only one night of testimony, instead of three nights, for school district testimony. Therefore, not all clusters can testify; MCCPTA would testify instead by areas. She noted the need to remind the council that the additional money received last year was extremely helpful, but that this was only for the first year of a six-year CIP program. Therefore, we need the same funding level this year.

She noted that Council member Craig Rice would be holding upcoming community meetings to discuss the education budget. Ike Leggett is holding community session on the county budget, one is scheduled at 7 pm, Jan 25 at the Silver Spring Civic Center and another is scheduled at 7 pm, Jan30, at the Black Rock Center for the Arts.

Melissa said that the Awards Committee needs new members and that the Special Education Awards Ceremony is on May 8, 2017.

Additional reports are contained in the meeting packet.

#### ANNOUNCEMENTS

Paul Geller was asked about advocacy surrounding proceeds from state gambling. Paul noted that the MCCPTA would first consider the issue before brining it to the delegate assembly for consideration. Question about a policy change regarding cell phone use in elementary schools. No policy change has been made by the board of education at this time. Cell phone towers on school property were discussed next. Melissa indicated that the MCCPTA consider the issue of cell towers to be under the purview of individual school PTA units. Hearing dates were announced about the Piney Branch Elementary School addition, which might cause the school's swimming pool to close. The hearings will be held in the school's media center at the following times: Jan 31, 4:15 pm; Feb 7, 6:30 pm; Feb 21, 4:15 pm, Mar 1, 6:30 pm, and Mar 28, 7 pm.

#### ADJOURNMENT

The assembly was adjourned at 9:32 pm.