

MCCPTA Board of Directors Meeting

Minutes

March 16, 2019

Carver Educational Services Center

Room 134

Call to Order: MCCPTA Vice President Cynthia Simonson called meeting to order at 8:06 pm; quorum (24) was reached at 8:37pm.

Members present: Officers - Lynne Harris (phone), Cynthia Simonson, Erin Clegg, Daria Daniel, Khristy Kartsakalis, Tracie Potts, and Laura Stewart. See attendance sign-in for other members present.

Approval of Agenda: The agenda was approved by consensus.

OLD BUSINESS

Family Engagement Partnership - MCEA Executive Director, Heather Carroll-Fisher and Chris Lloyd

Heather Carroll-Fisher and Chris Lloyd discussed identifying best practices between educators and parents. There will be a new teacher bargaining agreement next year. Focus on non-traditional union issues. Kirwan Commission is trying this such as community boards running schools. Different framework for MCPS – how to help kids and parents not feel like numbers. Through surveys would like to identify best practices on how to work together and also include in bargaining proposals.

VP of Education Cynthia Simonson mentioned that there are models on community board run schools to share, and MCPS trying to put together team to visit such a school. VP of Administration Tracie Potts mentioned role of MCCPTA to give feedback. Sunil Dasgupta mentioned lack of Teachers - missing in PTA and why. Fred Azcarate mentioned using AVPs/Clusters as focus groups.

Update on Integrated Strategic Communications - Henry Smith

Henry Smith mentioned communication is key. Three key takeaways are:

- 1) One-stops – someone should be responsible at MCPS to responding to emails; maybe train parent volunteers too.
- 2) Create playbook- wide variety on frequency, so create playbook; best practices and perhaps try out with a few clusters this spring – BOD could suggest 2 representative clusters. Put together playbook in June.
- 3) Ask MCPS underutilized, so perhaps 311 number and/or how to make it more useful and accessible to parents. Ex: bumper stickers

National PTA Dues Increase – VP of Administration Tracie Potts

VP of Administration Tracie Potts discussed National PTA has a proposal to increase dues that will be voted on in June. National PTA has information page and also hosting town hall to explain why dues increase is necessary. If adopted dues increase would become effective July 2019.

MCCPTA Training Chair - Frances Frost is on the National PTA board and will be at March DA meeting to answer questions and will be a delegate at meeting in June. MCCPTA may vote on issue at April DA meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

Increasing Recess in ES – MCPS Teacher Lauren Zolkowicz

Wheaton HS teacher Lauren Zolkowicz gave a presentation on the importance and benefits of recess for children in ES, and her suggestion to pilot an additional half hour of recess per week at Montgomery County elementary schools. She is looking for schools that might be willing to do pilot. Email Lauren at laurenzolk@gmail.com

Equity Unit – VP of Administration Tracie Potts

Tracie Potts discussed Parent Engagement group open to training MCCPTA board leadership and show how training teachers on equity. Suggested for MCCPTA spring training.

Racism 101 – Bruce Adelson

Churchill PTSA President Bruce Adelson discussed how with several recent incidents of racially offensive/insensitive words and symbols being found at schools, that he is beginning trainings/workshops on racism since some students may not know something is offensive, may be desensitized because of pop culture, and/ or just unaware. Suggestion for inclusion at spring training and also involving more people, as well as making cultural competence part of school curriculum.

Gillian Huebner mentioned February was a bad month for county in racial incidents, and that OSSI created a list of best practices and she will share on BOD listserv and in materials for March BOD meeting.

District Assessment Work – How MCPS will comply with 2.2 percent testing limits - VP of Education - Cynthia Simonson

VP of Education Cynthia Simonson discussed how each district in the state is tasked with talking about assessments. What does 2.2 percent look like and what is it limited to.

- PARCC/MISA non-negotiable
- MCPS – MAP three times a year – very clear purpose of each test
- MCPS progress checks – done in classrooms and audited centrally

Every two years plan is revised and will go before MC board in June. 2.2 percent testing piece currently under that number.

MPIA/MISA Update – VP of Education - Cynthia Simonson

Cynthia Simonson discussed results from Maryland Public Information Assessment (MPIA) – There was an expansion of classes and qualifiers for magnets, so cohorts at schools were added to meet need. Cynthia heard from parents that everyone was in these classes versus just those selected/identified.

- Three middle schools put every student in accelerated IM classes
- Four middle schools put every student in Global Humanities Course

This defeats purpose/intent of class expansion in the first place. OSSI is aware of this and needs to provide more guidance for high achievement classes.

MISA Update – Asked state to suspend MISA testing for another year. HS students do not have to take physics – just three years of science.

MCPS has created a new District school report card. ES. March 21st have opportunity to have

conversation about what report card should look like. White/Asian students currently used as benchmark.

MCPS Enrollment Projections Letter/Response – Katya Marin

Katya Marin discussed MCPS enrollment projections growth that were made to look good. and requested an explanation of the methodology. On February 23, 2019 she received a response from Andrew Zuckerman that was more transparent and correct. She also discussed some changes to plans for additions for certain MCPS.

Budget Amendments – Treasurer Khristy Kartsakalis

Treasurer Khristy Kartsakalis noted \$74,000 plus in MCCPTA budget. And requested 3 budget item changes:

1. Programs – Change ACT-SO budget of \$125.00 and increase to \$1500.00
2. Committee Expenses – Advocacy over budget by \$495.00 so increase budget from \$1100 to \$1600.
3. Area clusters – Keep \$200 per cluster for summer area meetings. Add \$500 for BOE Cluster meeting dinners.

Action Item: Khristy Kartsakalis moved to amend budget with three item changes discussed above related to ACT-SO, Advocacy and BOE Cluster dinners; seconded by Fred Azcarate and motion passed unanimously.

Annapolis Bills/Legislative Day – VP of Advocacy Laura Stewart

VP of Advocacy Laura Stewart mentioned she sent a list of all key bills. She noted the construction bill is likely to pass and it could be a significant amount. Laura testified on reducing lead to less than 5 parts per billion in MCPS. Also, county council hearing on lead will be held next Tuesday at 1:30pm.

Laura also testified on Kirwan Commission recommendations for MD schools. A down payment of \$255 million to implement blueprint has already been approved, and then an additional \$355 million for FY 2021 will likely be approved. Schools with 80 percent or more FARMS rate would get a staff member.

Regarding MD School Calendar, there is a veto proof majority to change school start date from after Labor Day. MCPS will probably not implement any change next year, but the year after that.

MCCPTA Awards- Awards Chair Daria Daniel

Awards Committee Chair Daria Daniel mentioned that nominations for MCCPTA awards for Principal, President, Advocacy, Dad 4PTA, Maryland Life Achievement, National PTA Lifetime, Partners in Education are due by March 22. Committee has selected the 2019 Champion for Children Award winner – VP of Education Cynthia Simonson – congratulations!

OFFICER REPORTS & COMMITTEE UPDATES

Operating Budget Chair – Laura Mitchell

Operating Budget Chair Laura Mitchell discussed MCPS holding five Safety Communications Meetings, including two upcoming at Northwood HS on March 21st and Clarksburg on March 26th. She also

mentioned that the lockdown with options communication is on the MCPS website.

VP of Education – Cynthia Simonson

Cynthia Simonson mentioned two Washington Post stories on MCPS absenteeism and attendance rates, and on Honors for all – is there one size fits all approach in MCPS. Cynthia Simonson also testified on honors program issue at February 25th BOE meeting.

VP of Administration – Tracie Potts

Tracie Potts mentioned deadlines for nominations for Area Vice Presidents and Cluster Coordinators is Friday, March 22 – must hold meeting. Tracie will get clarification from MCCPTA Bylaws Chair Kellie Schoolar-Reynolds whether they can be done via email. Phone/conference call is acceptable.

VP of Programs – Erin Clegg

VP of Programs Erin Clegg noted that the MCCPTA Awards Celebration will be held on May 23, 2019 at Montgomery College Takoma Park Campus. She highlighted that the Student Business Challenge program is up and running. Forty-five MCPS middle school students are participating in the inaugural year, and the culminating event will be held on May 29th at Finance Park - Thomas Edison HS.

Reflections Chair – James Modrick

Reflections Committee Chair James Modrick noted it was the 50th anniversary of the program this year and that MCPS students were recognized for 7 pieces by State of MD, of which 3 are going to be entered into the National Competition.

Meeting was adjourned at 9:05pm

Submitted by Daria Daniel – MCCPTA BOD Secretary