MCCPTA DELEGATES ASSEMBLY

October 22, 2019

Carver Center Auditorium

Lynne Harris called the meeting to order at 7:07 pm.

The Agenda for the meeting was approved. The minutes from the September DA were adopted.

MCCPTA President Lynne Harris provided the ground rules for the meeting. She explained the procedures for the meeting and presented the color-coded version of the 2019-2020 MCCPTA Advocacy Priorities. It was proposed that the color coded document be substituted for the Priorities document presented at the September DA meeting; to use this document as a starting point to perfect the MCCPTA Advocacy Priorities. All agreed to using the color-coded document as a starting point.

Lynne Harris then proposed the Standing Rules to further expedite the consideration of the Draft Advocacy Priorities. The Standing Rules were read out loud to the documents and unanimously adopted.

In order to vote all delegates will have to hold up their delegate card. If you do not have a card you cannot vote.

Kellie Schoolar-Reynolds and Matt Swibel were appointed as timekeepers. Matt further explained the time keeping rules and the time cards were explained and shown to the delegates.

Lynne announced that Lisa London has agreed to be the editor of the final Advocacy Priorities document; she will not change any of the intent or the language in the document.

At 7:21 pm Dr. Monifa McKnight, Deputy Superintendent, introduced herself and provided background as well as her desire to support MCCPTA’s work moving forward. Dr. Smith then spoke and explained the reasoning for hiring Dr. McKnight. Dr. Smith needed a deputy due to the scale, alignment and cohesion of the work of MCPS. He seeks to maintain excellence and move towards equity to support every student in the system. Dr. Smith also explained to the delegates how important his meetings with the MCPS Executive Board are to supporting the students and their families in MCPS.

At 7:28 pm the meeting moved to unfinished business. Lynne Harris reminded the delegates of MCCPTA’s mission and that the Advocacy Priorities are to support the mission. The color-coded document was put up on the screen so that all delegates could see the document and the proposed changes. Listed below are the motions with the changes in language in italics.

* A motion was made to amend the Opening Statement/Preamble to include “ensure a world-class education in the sciences, mathematics, humanities, civics and arts for every student, and” – this motion was adopted as a whole after a motion within a motion was made to add mathematics.
* Under Access to Equitable Opportunities there were 4 motions:
* Implement a plan to address inequities in *access to opportunities* and expand options, especially in historically disadvantaged groups, to be completed by the end of this fiscal year, allowing for a 60 day period of public comment before final approval. Schools with highest rates of poverty should be a priority. This motion was adopted as written.
* Provide additional resources *and more efficiently employ existing resources* in underperforming cohorts that have been identified in each school’s Equity Accountability Model. This motion was adopted.
* Share best practices to help address disparities in *access to opportunities* between schools. This motion was adopted as written.
* *Ensure that the implementation of the foregoing steps does not result in a material or significant reallocation of resources away from schools and students not primarily intended to benefit from the Priority.* This motion was proposed as added new language and was defeated.

Arguments were heard for and against the proposed amendments in this section and time expired at 7:40 pm. The timekeeper made a motion to extend time for 3 minutes, motion was granted. Debate continued until time expired.

* Under Capital Funds and Facilities there were 3 motions:
* Consider the socioeconomic makeup of the school population as one of the factors, while acknowledging the condition and overutilization of the building as the main factors, when prioritizing construction projects. (Received amendment to delete This Item # 3). There was debate about how this would be implemented and the amendment was ultimately defeated.
* Develop a comprehensive County real estate strategy to serve both immediate and long-term MCPS needs, prioritizing MCPS re-use of County –owned property *and avoiding the sacrifice of limited community parkland.* The language in italics was removed and the motion was adopted.
* *MCCPTA acknowledges that it is not advocating any position on the use of school boundary changes to implement this Priority.*  This amendment garnered a robust debate that required the timekeeper to extend time for 5 min 7:53 pm. The motion to extend time was approved. The proposed language was defeated as time expired.
* Under Diversity and Inclusion there were 3 motions:
* Hire *excellent teacher and professional staff*, *seeking to reflect* the diversity of the MCPS student body. The language in italics was proposed to be added but the motion was defeated after considerable debate. Time was extended to allow for additional debate. Laura Stewart addressed the intent of the language.
* Develop a plan on addressing issues of equity and inclusion *within individual schools*, recognizing the research showing that truly diverse schools enhance learning for all students. The motion to add the language in italics was withdrawn.
* Provide staff diversity *implicit bias training* and inclusion resources to help them in their curriculum planning in addressing the needs of students in a culturally competent manner. The motion to strike “diversity” and replace with “implicit bias training” was adopted.
* Under School Climate there was 1 motion:
* Reduce disproportionality in discipline by promoting restorative practices. *Employ restorative justice practices solely as an additional approach to discipline but not as a substitute or replacement for traditional approaches.* It was proposed that the underlined language be stricken and the language in italics added in its place. The motion was defeated.
* Under Communication and Transparency there was 1 motion:
* Provide Open Data so that data is more accessible to school communities in a *downloadable* format. There was debate on this amendment. Language was proposed, add “or open read only cloud based format if the data size is too large to download”. A motion within the motion was made to strike “read only” and add “sortable” in its place. There was more debate, time expired and the motion was defeated.

The timekeeper stated that time expired at 8:45 pm on the discussion of motions/amendments to the Advocacy Priorities document. A motion was made to adopt the 2019-2020 MCCPTA Advocacy Priorities document, it was seconded and the document was adopted.

At 8:47 pm the Resolution in Support of Amending MCPS’ Absence Policy to provide three excused absences per year for students to participate in civic action was considered. Cynthia Simonson recognized Lynne Harris to propose the Resolution. Lynne read the resolution out loud to the delegates. There was a motion made to reduce the number of absences from 3 to 1. There was debate for and against the reduction in number of days. The motion was not passed and the number of proposed days remains at 3. There was a motion to pass the Resolution in Support of the Amendment, it was seconded, and the Resolution was approved.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:57 pm.

\* There were four motions that were not considered due to time constraints and the time in which they were submitted.