

## **Board of Directors Meeting November 5, 2015**

**In attendance:** President Frances Frost, VP of Education Michelle Gluck, VP of Advocacy Lynne Harris, VP of Administration Kellie Schoolar Reynolds, VP of Programs Paul Geller, Recording Secretary BOD Julie Grimes, Recording Secretary-DA Melissa McKenna, Amanda Graver, Kim Testa, Neal Orringer, Rick Chimera, Jennifer McDonald, Tammy Clark, Vicky Miller, Jen Cope, Joe Piff, Sally McCarthy, Kevin David, Revonne Johnson, Steve Wilson, Erin Clegg, Sumbal Sheldon, Jennifer Young, David Mintz, Karen Collishaw, Brian Rabin, Carol Shivers, Elaine Weiss, Chris Rutledge, Michelle Moller

Meeting called to order 7:38

Evan Glass presented The Ghandi Brigade film produced by black and immigrant students during the Summer Program DOCS

Vice President of Education Michelle Gluck chaired the meeting until Frances Frost arrived.

Vice President of Administration Kellie Schoolar-Reynolds moved to add two voting items under VP of Administration report: the approval of the Nomination Committee, and the approval of BCC cluster coordinator Jeremy Marcus. Motion passed. Amanda Graver moved to approve the agenda as amended. Motion passed. Joe Piff moved to approve the minutes. Sumbal Sheldon seconded. Motion passed.

### **Vice President of Administration Report**

Kellie presented the Nominating Committee:

Kevin David—Clarksburg, Northwest, Seneca Valley, Quince Orchard  
Vince Mickens—Churchill, Rockville, Richard Montgomery, Poolesville, Wooton  
Joy White—BCC, Walter Johnson, Whitman  
Tammy Clark—Damascus, Gaithersburg, Watkins Mill, Magruder  
Chrystal Baker—NEC, Sherwood  
Nell Rumbaugh—DCC  
Cherise Scott—At large

Kellie encouraged everyone to also help the nominating committee to find candidates. Kellie moved to approve the committee. Sally McCarthy seconded. Motion passed. The nominating committee candidates will now go to the Delegates Assembly for approval.

Kellie would like to amend the by-laws under Article VI, Section 4, b. to read All officers shall have served at least one (1) full year as a local PTA officer OR one (1) full year on the PTA council board of directors” from “AND one (1) full year on the PTA council board of directors. Bylaws committee chair Karen Collishaw explained that the rationale behind “AND” was to ensure that the officer understands how both bodies work. Kellie expressed concern that the language constricts the nominating committee’s search for a treasurer. Michelle added that many members of the board are not interested in being on the Executive Committee. Amanda Graver said that such language would also broaden the availability to people who were not local PTA officers but had some other active role, such as Delegate or Cluster Rep. Sumbal Sheldon said that the proposed change may work in the case of Treasurers and Secretaries, since they would have had the necessary experience at the local level to fulfill the role, but that the President, Vice President of Advocacy, Vice President of Education, and Vice President of Administration

need to have the county-wide experience required of the current by-laws. Steve Wilson expressed concern that expanding the candidate pool may not bring the Executive Committee the experience and commitment the roles need. Joe Piff was concerned that if we start designating different eligibilities, we will need to create subsets within our by-laws. Kellie said that she can work on the language and bring it back to the board next month. She also pointed out that our by-laws in the new blue-book still say "OR" instead of "AND," and that this is a misprint. Karen Collishaw said that she is also working on adding a Vice-Chair as a voting member if the Chair of a committee is not present. Kellie presented Jeremy Marcus as BCC cluster coordinator. The board approved his appointment.

### **Vice President of Programs Report**

MCCPTA Presents featuring Craig Rice and Pat O'Neill would be re-shown Saturday November 7 and Sunday November 8 at 9 a.m.

### **Vice President of Advocacy Report**

Lynne has forwarded all information about how the Governor's GCEI cuts have affected our classrooms. Joe Piff recommended that everyone who contacts the governor emphasize that education is important to the growth and maintenance of business.

### **Vice President of Education Report**

Michelle asked board members to reassure any delegates that the Advocacy Priorities are broad enough to encompass their concerns even if the exact language they had hoped to see in the document did not make it there.

The GT Committee had a well-attended meeting 11/4/15. Michelle deferred to Kim Testa.

MCPS staff gave parents pointers on what to ask at Parent Teacher conferences specifically geared toward GT concerns.

Special Ed Audit: Michelle expressed concern with the paucity of respondents, only 75 when there are 10,000 Special Ed children in MCPS. She felt that the medium for parent response may not have been accessible enough. She read Special Ed Committee Chair Jeanne Taylor's reaction to the audit:

The language in the audit was vague. The audit gave MCPS credit for actions and programs mandated by Maryland. Ninety-six percent of administrators said their major problem with dealing with Special Ed was that it was a major factor in their budgets.

### **President's Report**

The last Study Circles session will be December 7, 2015

Donuts for Dads will be November 11. Paul Geller will head that up.

Under the Financial Report, there are two expenses listed for October that are actually 2014 expenses: Gift Cards for Reflections and the MDPTA Advocacy Lunch.

The audit and 990's are done.

Larry Edmonds resigned but the DA needs to accept that resignation. If in the meantime someone would like to help keep the books, please let Frances know. Amanda Graver asked about the legality of a PTA

without a treasurer. Frances explained that we can continue as long as we have two signers, and Kellie is one.

Frances reminded everyone testifying before the BOE for CIP to ask their supporters to wait until the questions section to leave so as to not interrupt other speakers.

Frances asked Lynne whether she had a form letter for people to send to the Governor regarding GCEI. Lynne replied that form letters do not get attention, but that people should call, tweet, email, and write letters in their own words. Kim Testa asked whether there was a legal limit to how many children could be in a class. Michelle Gluck explained that there are limits for K-1, 2-3, and 4-5, but that schools average each level, so that there may result in some classes having more than the limit.

Frances called on Operating Budget Chair Neal Orringer for an update on the OB meetings with MCPS. He said that he is not at liberty to discuss exactly what is happening at the meetings at this time, but that main topic is WHERE the cuts will be. Frances asked everyone that if they have something specific they would like Neal to keep an eye on to please let him know.

Kim Testa was concerned at discussions of putting magnet children in office buildings. Frances replied that commercial space is the last place that MCPS would look to because beyond issues of equity (gyms, fields, etc.), there are many state requirements that they would have to meet before allowing children in the space. Michele also expressed concern that if magnet children were put into the buildings, the lack of amenities may undermine the program. Frances said that ultimately Park and Planning was more interested in the idea than MCPS.

#### *Achievement Gap*

Frances met with Dr. Navarro from MCPS who will be providing a cheat sheet for Parent Teacher Conferences.

Amanda Graver asked what percentage of students compose the achievement gap? Frances replied that there are many factors that go into measuring the gap: test, how many in advanced classes, on time graduation, etc.

#### *CIP Report*

Melissa encouraged everyone to bring solutions to the BOE: ideas that are not in the CIP such as where there are cross-cluster solutions or where the space is that DLRP may have missed. She said that the argument for artificial turf is that in the long run it is more cost efficient than natural. Sally McCarthy said that many parents have expressed concern that money is going for turf when children don't have classroom space. Frances said that the BOE is concerned with equity issues because currently those schools that have artificial turf are those whose parents can afford to raise the money to buy it, and that schools that have it earn extra money renting the fields.

#### *Technology*

Kim Testa asked whether the Chromebooks compromise teaching positions. Frances explained that the chromebooks come from a different section of the budget that cannot be used for teacher positions. They come out of the techmod budget and are purchased in lieu of updating computer labs. Amanda Graver asked whether there is a plan in the budget to replace the Chromebooks once they are obsolete. Paul Geller explained that the Chromebooks are more upgradeable over time than other systems. Happy Birthday to Kellie!

David Mintz informed everyone that the Westboro Baptist Church would be protesting at Rockville and Churchill schools because they have Lesbian and Gay Alliances, but they would not be allowed on school grounds.

Meeting adjourned 9:38