

**Montgomery County Council of Parent Teacher Association (MCCPTA)**  
**Minutes of the Board of Directors meeting on March 6, 2008**  
**in the Auditorium of the Carver Educational Services Center**

Attendance: Officers: Jane de Winter, Kay Romero, Liz Wheeler, Victor Salazar, April Keyes, Dale Ryan, Stacy Menendez, Ted Willard

AVPs and Cluster Coordinators and Committee Chairs: Tracy Fox, Ann Gallagher, Elisia George, John Hall, Beth Kennington, Pam Moomau, Ellen Paul, Sharon St. Pierre, Sharon Schulman, Patti Twigg, Linda B. White, Jaimie Jacobson, Kristen Tribble, Lon Hamann, Jim Keenan, Paul Morrison, Juan Johnson, Kate Savage, Laurie Halverson, Janette Gilman, John Hall, Lori Merrill, Karen Smith, Ricky Ford, Jennifer Chambers, Ellen Schaefer-Salins, Lee Ann Doerflinger

35 in attendance, 43 needed for quorum

Call to Order: 7:35 pm

Amendments to Agenda:

Remove Committee Reports item.

Approval of Minutes

*Change to Amendment 2 to second motion under the High School Venue Status: remove “in accordance with previously-established timeline.” Also, add people who proposed the 2 amendments. Minutes approved as amended at 7:40 pm.*

Treasurer’s Report: Sent notice to all local treasurers of schools that have not paid dues. There are 20 schools that have not paid for insurance. List of those schools shown to have not paid their dues distributed.

Officers Reports:

President’s – Jane de Winter

Budget Testimony to the County Council will be on April 7<sup>th</sup> and April 9<sup>th</sup>. Those who are slated to testify should see Liz Wheeler if you cannot testify on one of the two dates.

County Fiscal situation is dire. The deficit is projected to be \$296 million, instead of the \$400 million previously reported. There likely will be a tax increase to decrease the deficit.

This budget will result in significant reductions in the MCPS budget request.

The proposed budget will be released on March 17<sup>th</sup>. On our BOD meeting in April, we will discuss priorities, if there are cuts to be made on the county level. Some items of the BOD-approved budget are not decided by the Council, therefore not affected.

Climate Surveys – Larry Bower stated that the cost of distribution of the parent surveys is \$300,000, which includes \$120,000 labor, with the rest (\$180,000) allocated between postage (45%) and other (55%), such as translating, part time work for processing, etc.

Vice President for Programs – April Keyes

Presidents & Principals Dinner – Donations are \$5,000 below budget. The date of the dinner is May 21.

More volunteers are urgently needed. To do list includes trying to get more donations, writing a

speech for Leon Harris, finding a speaker for the beginning of the dinner (Leon Harris will be late), obtaining invitation and program printing estimates, and getting a gift card from a local restaurant from Leon Harris.

Vice President for Administration – Liz Wheeler

Training Committee – a Secretaries & Bylaws training will be held on March 12 at 7:30pm at Wheaton High School.

Cluster Meetings are very important to hold. The following topics should be presented at all cluster meetings: training for local officers, ideas for future testimony, recruiting for cluster, board and committee positions.

Steve Bedford has stated that he will talk to all Community Superintendants to encourage their attendance at these meetings.

Old Business

Bylaws

**Motion by Kristen Tribble to accept the “white” version of the bylaws. This version raises the number for a quorum to 25 members. Motion seconded.**

**Amendment by Pam Moomau to add that the 25 must include a majority of the officers.**

**Amendment passed at 8:44 pm by raised hands, 26 to 5.**

**Motion approved by raised hands, 22 to 8, at 8:46 pm.**

New Business

Resolutions (2) from Curriculum Committee:

**1) Motion made by Jaimie Jacobson to send the Middle School foreign Language Curriculum Resolution back to the Curriculum Committee for more work. Passed by voice vote.**

**2) Motion made to approve Writing Resolution:**

Whereas an examination of the MCPS language arts curriculum by the College Board has noted an inadequate emphasis on writing, and

Whereas many parents in the school system are concerned that students are not learning as much grammar as they should, and

Whereas Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS) is currently engaged in Middle School Reform, and

Whereas the state of Maryland has minimum expectations for how many books students in middle school should read each year and could in the same way set minimum expectations for the amount of writing that students in middle school should be expected to complete each year, therefore be it

Resolved that the MCPS Department of Curriculum and Instruction, in consultation with MCCPTA and other stakeholders, set a minimum number of substantive writing assignments, with the expectation of the use of proper grammar and organization, that students be expected to do each year, and be it Resolved that these expectations may be met in classes such as Social Studies and Science in addition to Language Arts.

**Passed by voice vote at 8:59 pm.**

Resolution from Communications Committee

**Motion made to approve listserv guidelines. Passed by voice vote at 9:24 pm.**

Meeting adjourned at 9:32 pm.