



DELEGATES ASSEMBLY MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, September 26, 2017

Carver Educational Services Center, Auditorium

(35 voting members to achieve quorum)

DRAFT UNTIL APPROVED BY DELEGATE ASSEMBLY

Mission of PTA

*To make every child's potential a reality by engaging and empowering families
and communities to advocate for all children.*

*Hacer una realidad el potencial de cada niño al comprometer y apoderar las familias
y comunidades para que intercedan por todos los niños.*

Called to order at 7:30 PM

WELCOME

The first Delegates Assembly of 2017-18 opened at 7:30pm by President Lynne Harris. She introduced the Executive Committee, welcomed new delegates and reviewed meeting format and responsibilities of delegates. Volunteers read the mission of PTA in English and Spanish. Lynne outlined the plan for conducting “paperless” meetings.

AGENDA: Approved unanimously.

MINUTES: Approved unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS

- Committees: Chairs were introduced. Vacancies were noted. CIP chair Laura Stewart noted that CIP hearing dates announced earlier have been changed to Nov. 6 and 8.
- Office Manager: Once our finances are in order, we will seek volunteers for a hiring committee for this paid, part-time position. A job notice and description will be posted on e-lists. Position is 20 hours per week.
- Blue Book (update by Communications Chair Sook Seo): No data received from five local PTAs. Getting consent to opt-in for the online version. Password-protection not yet determined. The print version should be ready to send to the printer by the 2nd week of October. Lynne added that every school will get at least one. The digital copy will be updated as needed.
- Financial investigation: A substantial amount was embezzled from MCCPTA last year. The investigation is ongoing, including 2 local PTAs affected. The Audit Committee contacted police on 4/26/17. Lynne has been in regular contact with the investigating

officer. The case was referred to the Montgomery County State's Attorney's office in August. Plea negotiations are ongoing and expected to resolve by mid-October. The plea would include restitution to MCCPTA. An insurance claim for MCCPTA and the 2 locals was filed in July. Our insurer recommended a forensic accounting, which is being initiated and will include the two locals as a single actor moved funds between the three organizations. We are committed to complete transparency, as outlined in our board memo. This situation underscores the requirement for board training and recommended training for local PTAs.

NEW BUSINESS

- FY18 Budget Approval: Treasurer Cheryl Peirce presented the board's recommended budget. She answered questions and moved for approval. The budget was unanimously approved.
- Lynne corrected the agenda appearing before delegates to reflect the agenda that was sent to delegates before the meeting. A different agenda was presented earlier in the meeting, in error. There was no objection by delegates to continuing based on the corrected agenda.
- Resolution on Undocumented Students: Safe Climate subcommittee chair Gillian Huebner gave an overview of the resolution that the board and delegates will consider next month (attached).
- Cultural Arts: Chair Priscilla Peterson noted that more than 160 performing artists have auditioned and been approved for use in Montgomery County Schools. They will appear during Cultural Arts Showcases on Oct. 2 and 4 (days), 11 and 12 (evenings). They are free at Carver Auditorium Children are welcome. More information, including grant opportunities and reviews, are available on the cultural arts e-list. Delegates are encouraged to ensure that someone from their schools attends showcases and joins the e-list.
- Volunteer Compliance training: VP of Education Cynthia Simonson explained that online training and fingerprinting (for overnight field trips) is required. If you took training last year, it is not required again this year. Dates for renewal are posted on the MCPS website.
<http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/uploadedFiles/childabuseandneglect/VolunteerFAQsfor2017-2018schoolyear.pdf>
- MyMCPS (new online grading and reporting system): The Office of the Chief Technology Officer did a presentation prior to this meeting. It will be available on MCPS-TV. Guides are available in English and Spanish on the MCPS website. There's a troubleshooting phone number listed for problems, but start with your local school. Elementary school rollout is on a schedule. Letters should begin to arrive in about a week. Full access won't be available until next year. <http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/mymcps-classroom/index.aspx>
- School Calendar: There's been a robust discussion on our listservs. The MCPS committee met on Sept. 19. Lynne noted that MCPS assures the four options presented are not the only options. VP of Programs Erin Clegg is representing MCCPTA, and will update listservs with any developments. Lynne urged delegates to email Gov. Hogan, requesting

that he rescind the executive order restricting school start and ending dates, and allow local districts to decide.

- RevEx: Laura Stewart explained that a new Revitalization/Expansion program is being developed to stretch dollars, considering capacity and aging facilities. A Board of Education presentation was posted on “Board Docs” on Aug. 31. The Superintendent’s Recommended CIP (Capital Improvements Program) budget comes out Oct. 23. The Board of Education presents it to MCCPTA on Oct. 24. CIP includes all construction. RevEx includes renovations and expansions, not necessarily additions.
- Advocacy Priorities: VP of Advocacy Neal Orringer noted that the Board of Directors will approve a draft for delegates to consider next month. Advocacy is our core mission. These priorities will reflect discussions at summer area meetings. Lynne noted that the goal is a succinct, one-page document of primary issues germane to us as a county, not a list of all local issues. It does not limit issues for advocacy. Every PTA should feel empowered to speak to issues it cares about.
- PTA/PTSA in Election Years: As individuals you are encouraged to be politically active. As PTAs, PTA officer and PTA members we cannot endorse, but we can inform. For candidate forums, all candidates must be invited. We must be open and objective. Create opportunities for members to be engaged.
- Representing more than one school/bylaws: In response to a delegate inquiry, Bylaws chair Kellie Schoolar-Reynolds recited Roberts Rules of Order that only one vote per person is allowed, even if you represent two PTAs. If you represent opposing viewpoints, make sure another delegate from one of the schools attends to vote the opposing view.
- Membership Award: Membership chair Carrie Palsson presented Stone Mill Elementary with a plaque for the largest total membership increase in Maryland.

OFFICER REPORTS: Questions\Answers\Updates

- VP of Education Cynthia Simonson: Summer area meetings highlighted the need for resources guides in multiple languages for parents on curricular issues.
- VP of Administration Matt Swibel: SoCA will be updated as soon as we receive updates from Maryland PTA. Cluster Coordinators: provide names ASAP of who will provide CIP testimony.
- VP of Programs Erin Clegg: MCCPTA Presents and year-end event are being planned.
- DA Secretary Oriole Saah: Troubleshooting materials link issue (some delegates can’t access).
- VP of Advocacy Neal Orringer: Committee convenes tonight. Goals - review priority issues, create voter guide and candidate questionnaire. Volunteers are needed to testify at upcoming Kirwan Commission (school construction funding) public meetings.
- Board Secretary Tracie Potts: Required boardsmanship training is due this Sunday, Oct. 1. Locals PTAs are highly encouraged to complete. Working with Oriole to troubleshoot access issue. (About half of delegates indicated they had trouble accessing meeting materials and half didn’t.)
- Treasurer Cheryl Peirce: nothing to add, no questions.
- President Lynne Harris: MCCPTA has established a partnership with the Domestic Violence Coordinating Council & Family Justice Center to promote October’s Domestic

Violence month and the ongoing "Choose Respect" tween & teen program. Speaks are available for local PTA safe respect & dating workshops for locals PTAs. Also, three of the 4 Kirwan Commission public meetings are near our area (none in Montgomery County). The closest is 9/28 in Frederick, also 10/12 Baltimore and 10/25 in Upper Marlboro. We'd like to take a group to the last two. Information has been scarce – we've prepared a letter stating our priorities, and seeking more information about the meeting structure and how we can engage.

Meeting adjourned at

Respectfully Submitted:

Tracie Potts, BOD Secretary and Oriole Saah, Delegates Assembly Secretary

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