

MCCPTA Delegates Assembly

March 26, 2019

Thomas Edison High School

Agenda amended to include an “Old Business,” Agenda approved as amended at **7:37**

Minutes adopted at **7:37**

STUDENT MINUTE:

Zoe Tishaev, SMOB finalist, gave a short speech about her candidacy. Nate Tinbite was not present.

COMMUNITY MINUTE:

- Edison will have about 1100 students coming through next year
- New programs added this year: law enforcement

MCPS MINUTE – Cynthia Simonson:

- The Maryland school report card: assessed schools on a scale of 1-5 in assorted categories
- Local accountability model: don't *just* assess schools on one factor (grades in class, MAP, PARCC, etc.), but a combination of the factors, a more thorough look on the needs of the students

MCPS: reimagining the report card, breaking down the categories into 5 specific *focus groups*.

- FARMS
 - Hispanic
 - African American
- Black Non-FARMS
- Hispanic Non-FARMS
- *Assessing the groups in the school, not just the school at large (a clearer focus on the achievement gap)*
- **April 5th – “Big Reveal” of the model**, 9 planned visits across the county before the end of the year

COMMUNITY MINUTE

- Choose Respect Montgomery @ RMHS: Buses leave from Seneca and Blair at 11:45, transportation *provided* from those schools if needed
More information: <https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/fjc/chooserespect/>
- Safety Patrol Camp – Registration is open
More information: <http://patrolleadershipcamp.cfsites.org/>

MARYLAND SAFE TO LEARN ACT – Mike Harting

Before: Schools evaluations performed by MCPS staff, walk through 206 schools in MCPS and quickly evaluate the locking of the doors, appropriate signage, etc. chat with principal, work orders filed

Now: Outside workers to help with the performance, 200 questions to thoroughly analyze, finish by June 15th. Evaluations of HS for 4 hours, MS for 3, ES for 2.

- Active assailant trainings completed for secondary schools, now rolling out to the elementary schools
- Page on site that summarizes Avoid, Deny, Defend
- We are *not* doing simulations: NO NERF GUNS. ☹️
- Staff are given a 30 minute video and a training after school
- Students: 6 scenarios are presented and students must evaluate what to do in those situations
 - Presentations and language vary based on age group of students. Students in High, for example, are taught “Avoid, Deny, Defend.” Language for Elementary varies considerably.

Questions: Is MCPS getting feedback from students on how it landed?

Answer: Students are given an “index card” to submit questions

- Big focus on *situational awareness*, hence a lockdown with *options* -- students in the digital age seem to *lack* situational awareness due to the prevalence of smart devices

WHAT IS JUNIOR ACHIEVEMENT FINANCE PARK?

There is a JA in PG and Fairfax, have been existing for over 5 years – MCPS’ JA is in its first year (at Thomas Edison)!

Volunteers for the “store fronts” in JA are typically parents with expertise in the area. Thank you to the parents.

This year we had a “business challenge”- challenge students to produce their own business idea. Extension of ideas learned in the Finance Park of entrepreneurship.

OLD BUSINESS

Nominating Committee:

Good news: Full slate of officers!

Bad news: Lots of empty slots for Cluster Coordinators! Check with your Nominating Committee members and make a call to get someone for Cluster Coordinator.

CCs ARE THE BACKBONE OF MCCPTA AND THEY ARE VERY IMPORTANT. Every cluster can have up to 3 coordinators!

National PTA Due Increase:

- NatPTA has a convention in June in Ohio, any PTA member can attend, each state has specific # of delegates, Maryland gets ~20 delegates (we’ve never filled that allotment)
Where do the dues go?
 - \$2 goes to MDPTA

- \$2.25 Goes to NAT PTA
 - \$1.61 Programs and Services
 - \$.15 Governance
 - \$.22 Property Management
 - \$.12 General and Administrative
- NATPTA votes on stances on *federal* legislation
- PTA plans to increase dues by \$1.50: PROPOSED NEW NAT PTA DUES = \$3.75
- Dues have not increased in 8 years
 - The addition will “secure our future” and maintain NATPTA’s brand/influence
 - It will cover inflation
 - It will develop leadership
 - **Specific information available at <https://www.pta.org/>**
- Informational video: <https://www.pta.org/home/run-your-pta/membership-dues>
- Currently a proposal – will come to the floor in June convention
- If it passes, dues will go into effect next school year
- Technically, dues *may* not mean increase individual member’s payment, but PTA has to cover it somehow (have the conversation with your PTSAs!)
 - Blair’s PTSA doesn’t charge members dues, just cover them from budget
- National PTA carries a *lot* of weight, Department of Ed. Gives serious consideration to their views on certain issues

Awards Committee:

We would like more submissions, so we are leaving submission open for awards for: NatPTA Life Membership (Super Prestigious), MCCPTA Partners & Education

NEW BUSINESS

Increasing Recess – Lauren Zolkiewicz, teacher at Wheaton

MCPS has the lowest amount of physical education requirements in Elementary – only 45 mins weekly.

BIG ISSUE: growing obesity problem in the United States, we need to lead the fight here

Physical activity proven to help with mental health

- In a school system similar demographics to MCPS, Texas study found increased recess increased *happiness, reduced bullying*
- Study also showed that increased play time did *not* yield lower (or higher) test scores

The problem: principals insisting we don’t have the time for more recess, HOWEVER, students tend to be more *on task* following physical movement

The plan: change the culture.

- *Encourage* teachers to take classes outside
- *Teachers can take their students outside for free play for up to 30 minutes a day*

Here's the kicker: DOESN'T require an increase in the budget OR an increase in the school day. IT'S FREE. Two schools willing to pilot the idea:

- Westover ES
- Forest Mills ES

A lot more principals would be game if they got less testing in return.

More pilot schools welcome! If you are at/know of an elementary school that would be interested, reach out. Lauren is meeting with MCPS on **April 9th! REACH OUT BEFORE THEN!** The meeting is intended to give the pilot schools "permission" to put a focus on outdoor play, in the unlikely situation that the students decline in academic performance.

Racism 101 – Bruce Adelson, Churchill's PTSA President

Churchill seems to have a history of divisive racially-charged rhetoric

- "N-word pass" incident
- Racial profiling incident 2 years ago
- Swastika defacement

Churchill has increased their forum count – conversations on racial issues

New Principal has been more cooperative than previous on having forums.

N-word pass phenomenon has been "going on for a long time," it only now arose because someone raised concerns

Many of the students don't fully *understand* the weight of the N-word. They're not in the curriculum, students never really taught.

Bruce Adelson is very willing to visit any school to speak

Planning on hosting an **event at Churchill in the spring to talk about racial issues**

Sherwood – Meeting April 4th at Sandy Spring Museum to discuss and reflect the past and future of the Sherwood community

Budget Amendments – Khristy Kartsakalis

Amendments to reduce carryover amt (**REDUCED TO \$47,512.79**):

- Currently sending \$125 to ACT-SO, YET we are sending 1,500 to MSP and MCR: **increase to \$1,500 (+1,125)**
- Advocacy Committee: Increase budget (**+400**)

- Proposed amendment: \$200 per cluster but **add \$500 for schools that are hosting the BOE** (there are 7 this year) (**+\$ 3500** (500 * 7))

Lead Bill

- Currently MCPS uses the threshold of 20 parts per billion for lead to evaluate “high level”
 - Literally everyone else uses 10 or less
- **Bill 2-19**, proposed County Council bill to lower that standard to 5 parts per billion
- All outlets above 20 have been cut off
- Currently: moving to replace those with >5ppb
 - Starting with water coolers – big water fountains by gyms that have coolers in them
 - Then moving to “bubblers,” the fountains in classrooms by the sinks
- \$50,000 to replace water coolers

That’s at the county, there’s one on the state level as well

- Passed the House, no opposition (**HB 1253**)
- Currently stuck in Senate
- Focusing on Kagan and Pinsky

The following bills have been passed by the House, not yet the Senate:

HB-0725 Restorative Approaches, meeting tomorrow, Kagan is on the committee

Daily Physical Activity Student activity increase to 150 hours a day

HB 110 – paying for lawyers

HB 256 - Trauma-informed approach bill

HB 0727 Maryland Build to Learn Act (<http://mgaleg.maryland.gov/2019RS/bills/hb/hb0727T.pdf>) Public school construction - state funding +400million, has to be matched by the county (Senators King and Zucker)

Operating Budget Hearings

Hearings on April 8-10th. Sign up! Cluster Coordinators especially. A brief outline will be going out.

Family Engagement Survey – Tracie Potts

Partnering with MCEA – joint surveys of membership (Us with parents, them with teachers)

GO TO >>>MCCPTA.ORG<<< – TAKE THE

PARENT SURVEY. (We will make sure to make it available in Spanish)

March 31 is the *deadline* to file your paperwork for compliance, only 49/194 PTAs are compliant

Role Montgomery College Plays – Cynthia Simonson

60% of students in MCPS end up at Montgomery College for some purpose, 25% go there directly

- Sometimes it's defeated students returning to education
- Sometimes it's university-bound students looking to save some cash

The problem: while MCPS has a great relationship with MC, many parents don't know much about it

MC is an *excellent resource* that we need to spread the word about. Need to get the conversation started *before* high school so it can be integrated into 4-year plans.

Assembly Adjourned at 9:32

~Minutes kept by DA Secretary Zoe Tishaev~