

President's Report

It was the best of times. It was the busiest of times. They were the times that tried my shoe soles. The summer of 2016 was indeed packed with PTA work, meetings, events, advocacy and more.

First of all, a big thank you to all of our PTAers across the county. You help make the magic happen each and every day. From volunteering in the classroom, to coordinating after school activities, arranging a teacher and staff lunch, leading your PTA and so much more, you are there for our community. For that I am grateful.

Second, thanks to all of you who spent countless, untold hours planning for a successful PTA year ahead for your school, cluster and county. Greatly appreciate our BOD members who serve as advisors and mentors to our local PTA leaders and go above and beyond the call of duty by representing all of our kids.

The famous MCCPTA Summer Area Meetings. I have now attended twenty-four of these meetings over the last five years and it never ceases to be an educational experience writ large. The issues across our area are sometimes similar and other times unique. All are equally important. Cannot begin to recount the number of times during testimony or conversation I will mention something learned at one of these gatherings. Greatly appreciate all who attended these meetings and shared with us their hopes, concerns and challenges.

On a personal note, thanks to all of you for giving me this opportunity to serve you. I am trying mightily to do a good job. This involves meeting with the people who can make a positive difference in our schools and sharing with them what you have shared with me. It involves advocating, pro-actively, for the needs of our students. It involves attending meetings with you and listening to the issues you are passionate about. It involves responding to emails, text messages, phone calls and stopping for random conversations during my travels. Best of all, it affords the opportunity to try to match the needs of one school, with the needs of another in order to combine issues to make sure action is taken to resolve them as expeditiously as possible.

One of the most curious things for me over the summer was moving on from my four year stint as a local PTA leader. It was a job I loved. Got to know all the teachers, staff, and many of the students and their families. From day one I vowed to help the people who would follow me as PTA leaders at that school. Why? Because it is a tradition the Presidents of the United States follow. They rarely criticize those that come after them. It is a sign of respect for the job and the responsibilities, pressures and challenges that come with it. And I have done my best to support the new crew. And, to be honest, while I miss the job, it feels good to know someone else is getting a chance to enjoy what I have repeatedly referred to as the best job I ever had in my life. I hope as you move forward, you too will do your best to be there for those who are now doing jobs you used to do. Even an offer to be there when it is needed is most appreciated.

So, I will ask a favor of you. Be kind to those around you. Treat them with the respect you would like to have extended to you. That's the Golden Rule. Life is too short to be anything except supportive of those you volunteer with. Some will choose to go awry. Let them. I beg of you to simply not stoop down to their level and parrot that behavior. Good PTA volunteers are a precious commodity.

Always remember, we are here for the kids. This is about the kids. We work for the kids.

Back on January 7th I was asked to take on a nearly impossible task: ask for \$100,000,000 more than the Maintenance of Effort (MOE) mandated from the County Council. It was needed to reduce class sizes which, I knew first hand, were too large and would eventually cost us great teachers who would leave the system or the profession. Thanks to a great many of you we were able, along with many of our partners, to successfully

FINAL COMMENTS

Paul noted that he's made a big move stepping up from local to county president. Effective advocacy can't be done without everyone's support. Last Thursday's County Council budget vote was a miracle. MCCPTA is his fulltime job - he's here to serve.

The meeting adjourned at 8:55pm.

DRAFT

convince the County Council to make an unprecedented move and unanimously agree to fund our schools at approximately \$89,000,000 over Maintenance of Effort (MOE). This was made possible thanks to all of us working together, testifying, advocating and nicely requesting this most important funding. And we did it the right way. We kept an even keel, we made our points diplomatically and we kept calm, cool and collected. At least in public. Even I had days when I was scratching my head and wondering if we would be successful. In the end, we were. Thanks to you!

On your most challenging days, please remember if we could put a dozen humans on the Moon between 1969-1972 and bring them all safely back to Earth using that old technology, we can most definitely help our own kids, teachers, staff, administrators, families and community right here in our own backyard. We are not looking for perfection nor do you have to be a rocket scientist. We are simply looking for heart, dedication and a gung ho spirit! Having a good sense of humor helps too! Remember, there is nothing in the PTA rule book that says you cannot have fun and/or a few laughs while doing your job. I wholeheartedly encourage it!

And now we have more work to do! So let's line up together, roll up our sleeves and get to work.

Some various and sundry bits o' information.

Welcome to Hallie Wells Middle School and their amazing new PTSA! This is the first additional middle school to join the family in more than a decade. Attended their PTA activation at Wilson Wims ES. Visited their new school for their open house last week.

Congratulations to all those at Farquhar Middle School on their new building. Visited there too last week. Kudos to those involved in the extensive advocacy for the land swap that made it all possible.

Attended all six MCCPTA Summer Area Meetings – thank you to all those who attended and shared their comments, questions and concerns with us.

A new listserv chair has stepped up, Sook Seo. Welcome aboard!

Testified to the Montgomery County Council for more than \$2,000,000 for Chromebooks that are going to our secondary school students.

Visited many schools over the summer including Gaithersburg ES, Summit Hall ES, Carl Sandburg Learning Center, Burnt Mills ES, Roscoe Nix ES, Beall ES, all six schools that hosted our area meetings – Montgomery Village Middle School, Richard Montgomery High School, Wilson Wims ES, Sligo Middle School, North Bethesda Middle School and Westover ES.

Met with Dr. Jack Smith, Dr. Maria Navarro and Dr. Andrew Zuckerman.

July 1st goodwill visit to Carver to welcome Dr. Smith and everyone to the new school year – gave out cookies.

Attended PIMA (Parent Involvement Matters Awards) in Baltimore County as a guest of MCPS.

Attended MCCC (Montgomery County Chamber of Commerce) dinner as their guest.

Attended several NAACP Parents Council ACT-SO events. Kudos to Pat Price and JoAnn Burl for all their work!

Attended Juneteenth Celebration in Germantown.

Vice President of Educational Issues Officer Monthly Report September 2016

Jennifer McDonald: vpedissues@mccpta.com

Meetings over the summer

Summer Area meetings (various dates)

Our summer Area meetings are summarized by our acting Recording Secretary and scribe extraordinaire, Melissa McKenna. A big “thank you” to all our active PTA-ers who came out to be a part of our summer meetings and who brought forth their ideas, concerns and action items. Items of recurring theme are:

- Class size, class size, class size. The teacher/student ratio is too high in too many schools.
- Equity, both in quality of course and in technical opportunity. Parents want equity between all our schools; the well-to-do and the not-so-well-to-do, the elementary to middle to high schools. Chromebooks are needed the sooner the better.
- Math curriculum continues to be an issue, an expected carry-over from previous years, especially with regard to compacted math and algebra in middle school.

Upcoming meetings

Sept.: Curriculum Committee Meeting

Oct.: Meeting with BoE

Ongoing Issues

Choice Study

When we left off last year, the county had conducted a comprehensive review of MCPS’ choice studies programs called “Study of Choice and Special Academic Programs.” In an effort to keep our programs relevant (Does it need to be overhauled? Revamped?) the Board of Education reviewed our Language Immersion Programs, Elementary Center Program for Highly Gifted Students, Magnets and Application Programs, High School and Middle School Consortia and Change of School Assignment. Many of us eagerly await the results of this study, conducted by Metis Associates. According to MCPS Associate Superintendent Dr. Erick Lang, there will be a presentation/update to the BOE on September 26th. There has been some work by staff over the past few months to follow-up on the findings and recommendations from the choice report which will be shared at the meeting.

<http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/uploadedFiles/boe/meetings/agenda/2016/agenda-092616.pdf>

Our MCCPTA curriculum advisory group meets regularly. Tammy is leading that group this year so she may have input on this subject.

MCCPTA Vice President for Administration Officer Report

August 31, 2016

Submitted By: Stephen Wilson

MCCPTA team, we certainly had a busy, but informative and productive summer. I want to inform you of some of the things I have been working, along with the rest of your MCCPTA Executive Committee (EXCOMM), since the end of last school year in preparation for what promises to be an exciting and eventful new MCCPTA school year:

1. Summer Area Meetings

It took a little doing by all involved, but we were finally able schedule and hold all area meetings before the end of summer. The six areas included:

- Gaithersburg/Watkins Mill/Damascus/Magruder
- Churchill/Richard Montgomery/Poolesville/Rockville/Wootton
- Blair/Einstein/Kennedy/Northwood/Wheaton
- Clarksburg/Northwest/Quince Orchard/Seneca Valley
- Bethesda-Chevy Chase/Walter Johnson/Whitman
- Blake/Paint Branch/Springbrook/Sherwood

The EXCOMM heard a lot of good feedback during each meeting, and that feedback is being used to prioritize much of our efforts this year. Thanks to all who come out and participated. By the way, a lesson learned for next time - Start meeting planning much earlier (April 2017).

2. Fall Training

Planning is ongoing for the MCCPTA Fall Training to be held on September 10, 2016 at Montgomery Blair High School. The agenda for the training has been promulgated (hand-outs also available) and a Signup Genius established for those who wish to participate. In addition to the usual training topics, this year's training will have several training topics aimed at providing the veteran MCCPTA member with additional tools for her/his "PTA toolbox." I strongly encourage all who can to attend.

3. Standards of Continuing Affiliation (SOCA)

The first Maryland PTA SOCA report of the new school year was promulgated to the Cluster Coordinators and Area Vice Presidents approximately one week ago. Cluster Coordinators should work with the PTA leadership within their respective clusters to resolve any SOCA problems and/or issues. I have received some questions and feedback regarding this first report and am working to get answers to questions and resolved any issues.

**Vice President of Programs Officer Report
September 2016**

Melissa McKenna
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Meeting attendance:

Attended all summer area meetings except BCC/WJ/Whitman.

New Program:

MCCPTA Cookie Cart went around Carver Educational Service Center on July 1st. Introduced ourselves to the many folks in every nook and cranny of the building. Thanking the staff for their work for our students and building relationships for the future.

MCCPTA Presents

September 27th, 2016: Guest will be Dr. Jack Smith, our new Superintendent. Musical guest will be singer Kailyn Richards, Montgomery County ACT-SO gold medal winner.

Dr. Smith will also be joining us for the first half hour of our Delegates' Assembly. It will be an MCCPTA Presents you do NOT want to miss!

Other guests and programs still being planned.