

T. Potts  
Montgomery County Council of Parent-Teacher Associations

**MCCPTA**

*everychild.onevoice.*

**Board Meeting Agenda**  
**Wednesday, January 4, 2017**  
**7:30 p.m., Carver Auditorium**

**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.*

Welcome

Presentation and Q&A by MCPS Chief Technology Officer, Sherwin Collette

Presentation and Q&A by MCPS Chief Financial Officer, Nicky Diamond

Approval of Agenda

Affirmations!

Advocacy Update

New Business

Old Business

Committee Reports

Officer Reports

President

Vice President of Education

Vice President of Administration

Vice President of Programs

Treasurer

Adjournment

## Calendar Items

### **Operating Budget testimony hearings before the BOE**

Thursday, January 5, 2017 and Wednesday, January 11, 2017

### **BOD Meetings, CESC Auditorium 7:30 pm (First Thursdays unless otherwise noted)**

*Attendees:* Officers, Area VPs, Cluster Coordinators, Committee Chairs

Wednesday, January 4, 2017

Thursday, February 2, 2017

Thursday, March 2, 2017

Thursday, April 6, 2017

Wednesday, May 3, 2017

Thursday, June 1, 2017

### **Delegates Assemblies, CESC Auditorium 7:30 pm (Fourth Tuesdays)**

*Attendees:* Officers, Area VPs, Cluster Coordinators, Committee Chairs, Presidents, Delegates

January 24, 2017

February 28, 2017

March 28, 2017

April 25, 2017

May 23, 2017

June 27, 2017

### **Cluster Meetings with Board of Education - all meetings are 7-9 pm**

February 9, 2017 Kennedy Cluster

February 16, 2017 Magruder Cluster

February 23, 2017 Wootton Cluster

March 16, 2017 Churchill Cluster

March 23, 2017 Rockville Cluster

April 20, 2017 Quince Orchard Cluster

April 27, 2017 Northwood Cluster

### **MCCPTA Presidents and Principals Event**

Date and Location TBD

## MCCPTA Officer Reports for January 2017

### President's Soap Box

Aloha!

Happy New Year to y'all!

This is budget season. Kind of like Wabbit and Duck Season in the Looney Tunes cartoons...only better! This is your opportunity to make a major difference to your cluster. Do you have to be an eloquent speaker? No. Do you have to write Pulitzer Prize worthy prose? Nope. Do you need to knock the ball out of the park and win the World Series in one swing? Absolutely not! All you have to do is simple:

1. Gather information. Reach out to your cluster Principals. Since this is Operating Budget season, ask what their needs are within their schools. If they say "Nothing, we're fine" ask if they have any challenges finding long-term subs, qualified subs, could use more teachers, counselors, or any other situation you have heard of within your cluster. What I always did, and it worked like a charm, was send out an email to all eight of my Principals, made it humorous and candid and told them I needed to hear back from all eight. I never testified once without hearing from all of them. If one or two stragglers kept me waiting, I would send a reminder to all thanking those who already responded and reminding the last few (the nameless one or two) for their help. If that failed, I called their Secretary. That always worked.

2. Craft your testimony. You don't have to be a Langston Hughes or Robert Frost to craft the needs of your area. You do need to be a bit creative, clever and original. The more memorable the manner in which you present the needs of your cluster (within reason), the better your chances are of getting what you need for your folks. Is this impossible? Heck no! I have seen folks step to the plate (read: the podium) and give incredibly memorable talks that have gotten results. You just need to tell a (TRUE!) story. I shared the need for lockers at one school by trying to cram a backpack into an actual size model of a locker. It was impossible. Two years later kids had new lockers with room for their backpacks and coats! Was this rocket science? Heck no! It was simply the truth.

3. Get a two-for-one! Yes, just like at your favorite retailer, you can get two-for-one deal every time you testify! Tis true! Submit written testimony that goes into chapter and verse detail about what your cluster needs. Then, and this is what is key, make your spoken testimony a monologue. Share two or three key points in your own words about what y'all need. And, by all means, don't memorize it. Tell the (TRUE!) story in your own words. Talk to your audience be they Board Members or Councilmembers. Look them in the eye and share your knowledge with them and show them your positive passion.

4. Really want to stand out? My grandmother used to make me write thank you notes. And did I ever dislike it. However, she was right. Take the time to write a handwritten thank you note to the folks you were addressing (pun intended). It is unusual these days for folks to receive them and it sure will be appreciated.

I look forward to hearing the needs of your clusters. I will be there cheering each and every one of you on. Why? Because you are my heroes for stepping up, volunteering and investing your time and talent on our kids!

Thank you!



***December Activities***

- Board of Directors meetings, December 1.
- School Health Council quarterly meeting, December 5.

***Upcoming Activities***

- January ExComm and Board of Directors meeting, January 4
- Operating Budget Hearing, January 5, Jan 11
- Curriculum Committee Meeting w/ Dr. Lang, January 23
- Delegates Assembly, January 24

***Recent and Ongoing Issues***

***Mobile Phone Use in Schools***

With regard to this modern dilemma, MCPS Chief Technology Officer, Sherwin Collette has been invited to speak at our January Board of Directors meeting. As it stands now, each principal calls the policies for their school although a uniform policy might be advisable here. Many middle schools ask their students to keep their phones in the locker during the day; other schools let students use their phones at lunch time. Elementary schools frequently do not allow mobile phone use at all while others restrict mobile phone use to only 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> graders. In addition, there has even been a modicum of concern expressed that school networks are over burdened and parents wonder if students are using their own data plans. To complicate matters, there is concern about the use of mobile phones in the classroom to further curriculum...which opens up a whole new chapter of how much is too much not to mention the obvious economic divide. There is certainly new territory to pave here so it will be especially advantageous to have our Chief Technology Officer as a guest speaker as we raise our students in this age of technology.

***After-School Physical Activities***

Our MCCPTA Health and Safety Committee advises that more resources be devoted to intramural and club sports in order to allow those students not engaged in team sports to have the opportunity for physical activity. To this end, some middle schools offer open gym, other schools support organizations like Girls On The Run. What does your school do? Please let us know, the more ideas we share the better.

***Health Room Staffing***

With regard to concern that some school health rooms are unstaffed during lunch or recess, according to the experts at the School Health Council it is up to the principals to decide what the coverage is when the health room staff is on their union-mandated lunch break. Some schools provide coverage in the form of a substitute physically present in the health room (especially at elementary schools) other schools post a sign to check in at the main office usually located nearby. The School Health Council would like to assure parents that there is always someone on duty either in the health room itself or in close proximity.

## MCCPTA Committee Reports

**Curriculum Committee:** Tammy Clark, Chair      [clark\\_9301@verizon.net](mailto:clark_9301@verizon.net)  
**Subcommittee Chairs:**            Amanda Graver – Elementary  
   Jamahl Johnson – Middle School  
   Cynthia Simonson – High School

### Events:

December 5<sup>th</sup> - Tammy, Amanda & Cynthia met with Erick Lang, MCPS Associate Superintendent OCIP, Scott Murphy, MCPS Director of Secondary Curriculum, Niki Hazel, MCPS Director of Elementary Curriculum, and Ben Ou Yang, MCPS Director of Career Readiness and Innovative Programs. The Curriculum Committee meets with OCIP staff several times throughout the year in order to share issues being raised by parents and students concerning curriculum and instruction, and to learn of MCPS curriculum changes, updates and events.

The following issues were discussed:

*Ready Common Core (RCC):* Our committee asked about RCC, which is currently being piloted this year in 11 elementary schools: Burtonsville, Lake Seneca, Meadow Hall, Summit Hall, Maryvale, Greencastle, Rensnik, Sequoyah, Shriver, Twinbrook, and Watkins Mill. RCC is an online curriculum program that these 11 schools volunteered to try in Reading & Writing and/or Math. All the materials are available in English and Spanish.

We will follow up as feedback is compiled from teachers/staff, and will seek feedback from parents.

*CTE Roadshow:* The Career & Technology Education programs were highlighted in November and December over the course of multiple nights at high schools across the county. The programs were well attend. The events were targeted at middle school students and families as they make decisions for high school course/selections.

*JEE policy on Student Transfers:* The Board of Education is seeking to change the process used for student transfers. The changes are in response to the Choice Study and will include opening the transfer process beyond hardships for high school students choosing CTE programs, which availability varies from school to school, and not all programs are utilized equally.

*Naviance/Family Connection:* The middle school counselors are introducing all the 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade students to Naviance, which many students know as Family Connection. Naviance is an online resource/tool which has been used by high school students for college and/or career planning. Naviance provides the ability to research careers, colleges, and makes it easy for students to keep all of their information easily accessible. The goal is to have students begin using Naviance in middle school as they plan out their high school goals using the 4-6 year planner.

*Science Curriculum News:* The shift to the Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS) is leading to changes in the high school science course sequence and the replacement of the Maryland School Assessment in science with the Maryland Integrated Science Assessment (MISA). MISA will be administered in grades five and eight, and in high school. This spring the MISA will be piloted in grades five and eight, with no fault to students. It will be piloted in high school in the spring of 2018. OCIP is planning a county-wide Science Curriculum Parent Information Night on Monday, March 20<sup>th</sup> at 7PM at Richard Montgomery High School. Curriculum staff and teachers will present information on the shift that is occurring with the adaptation of NGSS. The curriculum committee will actively promote this event and continue to share information with our community.

**Membership Committee:** Tracie Potts, Chair

In December the Membership Committee continued to encourage growth through weekly email updates including monthly membership challenge reminders. We also featured PTAs that have seen growth this year by sharing tips on how each school increased membership.

**Current membership countywide: 28,736** – 57% of last year's total.

**Nearly half of our PTAs (90) had not reported any membership as of mid-December.** Personalized emails were sent to each membership chair (or presidents in schools with no membership chair) to determine status, with individual follow-up to several schools that responded. Several appear to be unaware that there are TWO membership payments due each month:

- \$4.25/member mailed to MDPTA (they invoice monthly)
- \$1/member to MCCPTA (We do not invoice monthly. A link to the reporting form is on the MCCPTA.org home page)

**AVPS, Cluster Coordinators, presidents/officers and delegates:** *Please follow up with your schools to make sure they are aware of the separate MCCPTA dues, and ask if help is needed.* Some schools have new leaders who are unaware of the MCCPTA dues. We are happy to explain and assist. Please encourage your schools to report membership and send with dues ASAP. As we prepare for BOE, County Council and Maryland General Assembly hearings beginning this month, an accurate reflection of our membership support, along with dues to support our advocacy, is extremely helpful.

### **January Monthly Membership Challenge**

A free 5'x3' vinyl banner and \$25 Giant gift cards will be awarded to schools with the highest *percentage* growth over last year. **The deadline for membership dues to arrive at the MCCPTA office to be eligible for this challenge is January 20.**

Remember, membership is ALL YEAR LONG! January is a great opportunity for a mid-year membership campaign. Contact last year's members – it's not too late to renew. The cut-off to be considered for Maryland PTA membership growth awards is March 31. March will also be the final MCCPTA Monthly Membership Challenge.

Reporting members and paying dues early in the year is very helpful. However, membership can be (and often is) reported into spring and even summer. Membership never stops!

**Gifted and Talented Committee: Lang Lin, Chair**

**MCCPTA Resolution in Support of the Provisions on Talent Development, Universal Screening, and CPHG/Magnet Program Expansion in the Choice Study Response Plan**

Whereas enrichment and acceleration is a component of the MCPS Curriculum 2.0 with both strategies and programs;

Whereas in the Choice Study response plan, there is a talent development provision including Student Instructional Program Planning and Implementation (SIPPI) process for identifying and documenting the skills necessary for success in accelerated and enriched instruction<sup>1</sup>;

Whereas a large number of students in MCPS are identified as gifted and talented (GT) students at the intermediate elementary level<sup>2</sup>;

Whereas information and communications about academically selective programs (ASPs) are not available to all segments of the community equally<sup>3</sup>;

Whereas increasing applicant pool from underrepresented groups to academically selective programs is necessary<sup>4</sup>;

Whereas a small fraction of all GT students are admitted into academically selective programs and a much larger fraction of qualified GT students are not admitted into academically selective programs due to the limited number of seats<sup>5</sup>;

Whereas there is a lack of tracking information on GT students, regardless of whether in academically selective programs or not<sup>6</sup>;

Whereas in the Choice Study response plan, there is a targeted talent development provisioning in Title One schools including but not limited to Extended Learning Opportunities – Summer Title I Enrichment Program (ELO STEP), Enriched and Accelerated Professional Learning Community (PLC), Primary Talent Coach staffing position; Enriched Extended Day for all Title 1 schools<sup>7</sup>,

---

<sup>1</sup> Talent Development paragraph on page 3 in Superintendent Memorandum published on 10/10/2016:

[http://www.boarddocs.com/mabe/mcpsmd/Board.nsf/files/AEDPTL662E28/\\$file/Choice%20Study%20Update.pdf](http://www.boarddocs.com/mabe/mcpsmd/Board.nsf/files/AEDPTL662E28/$file/Choice%20Study%20Update.pdf)

<sup>2</sup> Key Finding 7 on page ix in MCPS: Study of Choice and Special Academic Programs

[http://www.boarddocs.com/mabe/mcpsmd/Board.nsf/files/A7TMN957C311/\\$file/Rpt%20External%20Review%20Choice%20Study%20Report.pdf](http://www.boarddocs.com/mabe/mcpsmd/Board.nsf/files/A7TMN957C311/$file/Rpt%20External%20Review%20Choice%20Study%20Report.pdf)

<sup>3</sup> Key Finding 2 on page v in MCPS: Study of Choice and Special Academic Programs

<sup>4</sup> Recommendation 3b on page vi in MCPS: Study of Choice and Special Academic Programs

<sup>5</sup> Key Finding 7 on page ix in MCPS: Study of Choice and Special Academic Programs

<sup>6</sup> Key Finding 8 on page x in MCPS: Study of Choice and Special Academic Programs

<sup>7</sup> Talent Development paragraph on page 3-5 in Superintendent Memorandum published on 10/10/2016 and MCPS presentation entitled "Talent Development and the Center Programs for the Highly Gifted"

Whereas in the Choice Study response plan, there is a provision to remove a parent application process which offloads burden of parental advocacy and, lets the school system to track students' progress and to invite students to ASP application process<sup>8</sup>;

Whereas in the Choice Study response plan, two new home school center programs will be in pilot in Stonegate ES and Spark Matsunaga ES<sup>9</sup>;

Whereas in the Choice Study response plan, further center program expansion pilot is planned upon the success of the two center programs<sup>10</sup>; and

Whereas in the Choice Study response plan, further ASP expansions are scoped<sup>11</sup>; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, that Montgomery County Council of Parent Teacher Association (MCCPTA):

1. Encourages all local PTAs to inform parents about the Choice Study response plan provisions on talent development, universal screening, and program expansion;
2. Encourages all local PTAs and parents to express their support on the Choice Study response plan provisions on talent development, universal screening, and program expansion;
3. Encourages all local PTAs to set up a GT Liaison position to assist parents and to channel information among PTAs and the sol system

---

<sup>8</sup> Page 5-7 in Superintendent Memorandum published on 10/10/2016

<sup>9</sup> Page 7 in Superintendent Memorandum published on 10/10/2016

<sup>10</sup> Page 7 in Superintendent Memorandum published on 10/10/2016

<sup>11</sup> Attachment in Superintendent Memorandum published on 09/26/2016

[http://www.boarddocs.com/mabe/mcpsmd/Board.nsf/files/AE3SXS74DB97/\\$file/Choice%20Study%20Update.pdf](http://www.boarddocs.com/mabe/mcpsmd/Board.nsf/files/AE3SXS74DB97/$file/Choice%20Study%20Update.pdf)