

MCCPTA Board of Directors Meeting
February 2, 2017
Carver Center Auditorium

Attending: President Paul Geller, VP Education Jen McDonald, VP Programs Melissa McKenna, Treasurer Lisa Betts, Acting BOD Secretary Tracie Potts and 24 members.

President Geller opened the meeting at 7:36pm. The Mission of PTA was read in English and Spanish. Listserv chair Sook Seo was recognized with tonight's affirmation! The agenda and minutes were approved.

OLD BUSINESS

- Choice Study resolution (Gifted Child Chair Lang Lin) unanimously approved.
- Note: Advocacy Priorities approved by Delegates Assembly Jan 24.
- DA Secretary Crystal Baker resigned last month. Tracie Potts was appointed acting BOD Secretary. Her name will be submitted to the Nominating Committee, along with nominees for DA Secretary and three candidates for VP of Advocacy.
- Nominating Committee met last night. Chris Rutledge is chair. Kellie Schoolar-Reynolds noted the Feb. 4, 2016 bylaws change is not correct in the new Blue Book. Secretaries and Treasurer require one year on BOD or a local board. President/VPs require one year on BOD. Tracie Potts will post correct bylaws on MCCPTA.org
- BOE operating budget hearings went well. Board questions/answers on MCPS' website.
- MLK breakfast was a wonderful event. Melissa McKenna and board members attended.

NEW BUSINESS

FY18 CIP Amendments/County Council testimony: Paul apologized for selecting speakers without board/AVP input due to late notice and a narrow signup window. Members suggested that a "ready list" of speakers and lobbying the Council for more public hearing time. County Executive Isiah Leggett will recommend the MCPS budget request without changes. For parents unable to testify, Councilmember Hans Reimer will hold an open discussion before the hearing (Tue, Feb. 7 at 6-7:30pm in the County Office cafeteria).

Blue Book: It's done! There are mistakes. President Geller thanked those who contributed.

January President's Report: President Geller stated that the Presidents & Principal's dinner was cost more than income collected so it will be scaled back this year. Immediate Past President Frances Frost questioned Presidents Reports stating the organization faced a \$22,500 deficit. Treasurer Lisa Betts said there is NO deficit. Mrs. Betts explained that this year's \$11,000 carryover is \$10,000 less than the prior year's carryover, and that the dinner had approximately \$10,000 more expenses than income. Several members weighed in during a lengthy discussion about whether the term "\$22,500 deficit" is accurate. Most members stated that it was not, including Stephanie Clerica, a professional auditor. Mrs. Frost requested a public correction from the President and asked to see all bank and financial statements for the current year. President Geller apologized and offered to write a public retraction in cooperation with Mrs. Frost. Mrs. Frost declined to assist with the retraction and re-iterated her request to see all statements

Office Manager: Jason Sartori asked why the budgeted position can't be filled. Treasurer Lisa Betts explained that if all budgeted expenses are spent, there will only be a \$60 carryover, and

this would be irresponsible. Jim Bradley and several other members agreed, but concern was expressed about the impact to cluster coordinators not having an Office Manager. Several members thanked the Executive Committee for countless hours spent managing the business of MCCPTA.

SSL Coordinator: President Geller expressed concern about the MCPS Coordinator of Student Affairs and SSL coordinator positions being combined in the current budget proposal.

ACT-SO: President Geller requested approval for a \$250 sponsorship for the April 2 countywide ACT-SO competition. ACT-SO co-chair/Springbrook Cluster Coordinator Joann Burl. Treasurer Lisa Betts explained that no vote is required for a budgeted expenses but the item is being presented for transparency since the sponsorship will exceed the “Organizational Advocacy/Representational Events” line item by \$100. There was no objection.

Further officer reports were accepted as presented in print.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

CIP - Melissa McKenna, chair

- MCCPTA will advocate for full CIP funding at County Council on Feb 7.
- Education Forums sponsored by Council member Craig Rice are scheduled for Feb-March (see flier).
- The Division of Long Range Planning finished Unity (Sherwood-Gaithersburg) and Highland studies. A public hearing on boundary studies is scheduled for March 9. Sherwood cluster coordinator Khristy Kartsakalis expressed concern that Sherwood parents were not included. President Geller agreed and suggested writing MCPS. Mrs. McKenna explained that DLRP was constrained by the scope of the study created by the Board of Education.
- Matt Sweibel added there’s a Feb. 28 community meeting regarding a boundary study for a new elementary school in the Richard Montgomery cluster. This school could include a Chinese immersion program.
- A Walter Johnson-BCC study group (not a boundary-capacity or feasibility study) has been formed to consider how space and capacity is currently being used. The final meeting schedule for this group will be out in a few days.

Special Education - Jeanne Taylor, chair

Our annual recognition ceremony is set for May 8. Please encourage award nominations. Mrs. Taylor also explained her recent letter to the General Assembly about parent notification.

Curriculum - Cynthia Simonson

- Parents are being told completed RQAs cannot go home, or that parents can only review them at school. This is incorrect. If teachers are not allowing students to bring these tests home, please contact the committee.
- There’s a disconnect between course options and what’s actually provided at schools. Parents are encouraged to initiate conversations. “Next generation” science standards are prompting changes (full implementation in 2017). Biology will be a standard offer for 9th grade. MCCPTA is partnering to sponsor a science night to explain “Science for All”

changes is scheduled for March 20 at Richard Montgomery High School. (Invitations will be sent via backpack fliers to ES and electronically to MS/HS). A discussion ensued about specific curriculum changes, and how to engage parents.

Awards - Daria Daniel, chair

Since the Presidents & Principals dinner date has not been set, nomination materials will be sent out with a March 31 due date. Champion for Children deadline is in February. Packets including award descriptions, criteria and applications will be distributed via listserv and at Delegates Assembly. Committee volunteers are needed.

Health & Safety – Stephanie Clerica, chair

Issues since DA: the committee is talking with the MCPS Transportation Department to encourage schools to request buses with seat belts when charter buses are used. They're also exploring concerns about lead in water for schools built before 1986.

Curriculum Committee (more)

- Mrs. Simonson requested that clusters distribute and discuss the report she recently posted on the listserv about AP courses. It is typically only distributed to principals. The report includes how many students at each high school are enrolled and grades earned.
- Matt Swibel noted that MCPS has formed a working group to revise elementary report cards. Parents are included. Members were not aware.

Treasurer – Lisa Betts

- In January MCCPTA reported \$4,500+ income and \$7,000+ expenses.
- Mrs. Betts has been working on SOCA issues.
- Pink post cards sent to schools from the Maryland Dept. of Assessments and Taxation note that pre-printed Personal Property forms due April 17 will no longer be sent to PTAs. The form must be downloaded and can be filed electronically.
- Not hiring an office manager and other line items should provide adequate savings to increase carryover now projected at \$60.
- Jeanne Taylor suggested an electronic Blue Book to save money. Laura Stewart suggested hiring an Office Manager effective March to assist clusters and to assist with year-end activities, since \$12,000 has already been saved not filling this position earlier.
- Mrs. Betts noted an error in the December financial: the \$410.58 payroll expense should be \$3,741.

Paul Geller moved to adjourn. Jim Bradley seconded. The meeting adjourned at 10:02pm.