**DRAFT MINUTES- MCCPTA Board of Directors Meeting**

**February 10, 2021**

**Zoom meeting**

Cynthia Simonson, MCCPTA President, called the meeting to order at 7:02 pm. A quorum was present.

**MCPS- Plans for 2021 Graduation**

James Koutsos, Area Associate Superintendent from MCPS, presented the current plans for 2021 Graduation, with a timeline for decisions:

Plan A (current)- 23 HS to hold graduation at traditional indoor venues (Constitution Hall, UMBC, etc), 2 comprehensive HS to hold graduation at their stadiums (Damascus, Sherwood), Alternative HS from their home site.

April 15- Decide whether to stay with Plan A or move to Plan B- all graduations at outdoor venues (home stadium or Gaithersburg HS stadium).

April 30- Decide whether to move to Plan C (all virtual)

Items that came up during discussion-

MCPS prefers that the decision to go to plan B occur at the same time for all HS, instead of some HS deciding on their own before April 15.

School comments to MCPS go through the graduation committee. The committee includes school administration, senior class sponsor, other members as determined by the school.

MCPS has not deposited money for any graduation sites.

There have been no recent conversations about plans for the class of 2020

MCCPTA will collect comments to send to MCPS.

**Agenda and minutes-** The agenda was approved with two changes (Introduce new committee chair during informational updates; vote to accept cluster coordinator resignations during new business). The minutes from the January meeting were approved (motion by Debby Orsak; seconded by Laura Mitchell)

**Updates**

The new chair of the Safe Tech committee was introduced- Natalie Rosser

Update on MD PTA- Cynthia Simonson

On January 21, MD PTA sent virtual voting guidelines to local PTAs. There are still questions about the qualifications of some MD PTA officers and the process to used to fill vacant positions. The president elect’s removal was not consistent with MD PTA bylaws.

National PTA assured Council leaders they had the full participation of the MDPTA leadership and all bank accounts were being closely monitored. National requested Councils encourage locals to pay dues and bring PTAs into compliance. On February 5, MDPTA sent correspondence to local units that was not authorized by National regarding a meeting scheduled for February 15th. Only 11 local PTAs in Montgomery County were in good standing by February 5.

Currently, the only requirement for a local PTA to be “in compliance” for the purpose of voting is to pay MD PTA/National PTA dues. We do not know what the requirement will be at the convention this summer.

**Officer Reports**

President- Cynthia Simonson- (See written report for details regarding ten topics)

MCCPTA executive committee continues to reiterate concerns to MCPS regarding the Ombudsman position. We have sent forward documents from other public school Ombudsman offices to demonstrate the contrast.

Food security- MCCPTA Nutrition Subcommittee and partners are working on opportunities to support better food distribution services. Supporting efforts to allow volunteers to pick up and deliver meals to families. RELATED -- MCPS Policy Committee proposed a new draft policy Board Policy JPH, School Food and Nutrition Services Programs, and is seeking public comment from now until February 12, 2021.

Administrative items:

~20 PTAs have not paid dues from 19-20 school year (Rochelle will follow up to see if monies were miscredited by accident).

Executive committee pulled participation reports for Board members for the year to ensure we are following our bylaws (missing no more than 2 meetings without being excused – note, CCs are excused as long as one of the CCs is present; Committee Chairs are excused if a Vice Chair substitutes). Officers followed up with affected individuals.

VP Educational Issues- Rodney Peele- (See written report for details)

Information was sent to families on flexibilities in course load.

There are potential changes on AP and IB exams- there will an opportunity for community feedback.

The return to school information has been distributed.

The VP Ed officer report includes a link to the new grading policy for schools.

Expected by Friday, 2/12, new state requirements for graduation. There are concerns regarding some of the changes. MCCPTA will hold a workshop to discuss the changes.

VP for Administrative Issues- Rochelle Fink (See written report for details)

The new SoCA report has not been received, yet. If PTAs have questions, Peggy and Yola from MD PTA have been responsive.

Local PTAs will receive a message if they have not submitted MCCPTA dues.

The list of Board members who have not taken the required boardsmanship and financial training will be recirculated.

VP of Programs- James Modrick- (See written report for details)

There will be a virtual “Celebration of Excellence” in May 2021. In addition to awards, the committee would like to include Reflections artwork and performances. The event video will be saved. Technical help is needed!

VP of Advocacy- Laura Stewart- (See written report for details)

CIP Issues- Testified on county-wide CIP issues, advocating for increased funds for HVAC issues and capacity projects. Coordinated Area Vice President County Council testimony.

Annapolis- The house overrode the Kirwan veto. The senate vote is coming up. Passing the Kirwan legislation would provide money for Built to Learn.

The virtual learning committee wants to recommend a “virtual learning czar and leadership team,” which would provide a central location of all virtual learning improvements. Cynthia will mention this suggestion to MCPS.

Treasurer- Khristy Kartsakalis- (See written financial documents)

Current balance is $65,326.06. Outstanding checks- $250. Balance on hand- $65,076.06.

Motion for budget addendum-

Remove the $4000 for the student business challenge (cancelled this year)

Motion from Laura Mitchell; second by Debby Orsak. The motion passed.

All committees need to indicate the amount of money they need for the rest of the school year. In March we will take a closer look at the budget, after more PTAs pay dues.

**Committees (More written reports in the meeting materials)**

Environmental health subcommittee- Hannah Donart

The subcommittee’s recent discussions focus on indoor air quality. MCPS includes “diamond rating” information for the air quality in each school building. However, the baseline data and the criteria for the ratings are not clear.

On the four-star scale, 63 schools received two stars and two schools received one star.

The subcommittee would like to send a letter to the superintendent and the board of education requesting a third-party indoor air quality expert reassess HVAC systems after completion of mitigation. The process should include exposure assessment to verify effective ventilation goals are met.

The committee made motion requesting support from the BOD for such a letter. The motion passed- 30 yes, 1 no, 1 abstain.

Bylaws committee- Kellie Schoolar Reynolds

MCCPTA bylaws were approved at the January 26 delegates assembly and submitted to MD PTA.

Proposals for amendments to the MD PTA bylaws are due on February 28. The list of amendments proposed by the MCCPTA bylaws committee was included in the meeting materials.

Awards committee- Daria Daniel

Nominations for the MCCPTA Achievement Awards are due on March 19.

The committee chair received comments regarding the Dad4PTA award. There is a concern that focusing one award for dads does not send the appropriate message. It may be more appropriate to have a Family award.

Motion- Change the Dad4PTA award to Family of the Year award.

Motion from Laura Mitchell; Second by Rodney Peele. The motion passed.

Also related to the Awards topic, Rachel Tate mentioned the Special Education awards. In the past they had their own celebration. Can they include one Special Education teacher award with the MCCPTA awards?

Conclusion- The Special Education Committee can determine what awards they want to solicit. These awards can be presented at the MCCPTA Celebration of Excellence.

**New Business**

Elists- Yeages Cowan (Communications Committee Chair) presented proposed rules for the MCCPTA elists. E-mail volume increased significantly over the past two months, with some non-PTA messages and some attack-type messages. The current policy is to moderate the first two messages from an individual. However, fully moderated elists would be too time consuming.

The rules will be discussed at the DA and then sent to all elists.

The MCCPTA is used as an information resource, to help reduce the volume of email.

Virtual voting guidelines- Cynthia referred to various methods of virtual voting, depending on the specific situation. We will vote on the SRO Resolution at the March DA. It will be important to ensure that everyone who votes is eligible (their voting role is known; delegates and PTA presidents represent PTAs that have paid MCCPTA dues). We will require preregistration for the meeting to allow us to confirm eligibility.

Board Resignations-

The three cluster coordinators from Watkins Mill cluster resigned- Christian Leatherbury, Kelle Dockery, Chris Bowerman.

Collins Odongo was included on the CC list, representing Paint Branch. However, this was an error because he was not elected for this school year.

The board accepted these changes to the BOD roster.

The meeting adjourned at 8:50 pm

Minutes submitted by Kellie Schoolar Reynolds, MCCPTA Secretary for BOD