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

**November 12, 2020**

**Zoom meeting**

Cynthia Simonson, MCCPTA President, called the meeting to order at 7:06 pm.

A quorum was present at 7:10 pm. The agenda was approved. The October minutes were approved with editorial changes from Laura Mitchell.

**Updates**

Update on MD PTA- Cynthia Simonson

National PTA’s motion to dismiss the temporary restraining order from MD PTA was granted. We are waiting for information from National PTA regarding the relevance of the ballot from MDPTA. MCCPTA has not mailed the three ballots, yet.

Tonya Sweat, MD PTA VP of Advocacy, resigned.

Information requested from National PTA- bank accounts for submitting dues; restructuring MD PTA vs revoking their charter.

MCCPTA communication strategy- Yeages Cowan

Current thoughts on MCCPTA communication methods- (no final decisions)

Website- The communications committee is considering the vision for the website. It may be used as an information resource, including calendar.

The Facebook page (MCCPTA) can be used to advertise events and push out information. MCCPTA VPs and committee chairs could post. We would need rules regarding the type of information to post.

Note- the information posted on the MCCPTA COVID-19 FB page is not “MCCPTA endorsed.” The page was created as an information sharing resource and now has about 2500 members. Some recent discussions have become toxic.

We need a method for one-way communication (send out information, but no responses). We currently have this ability, but only the MCCPTA President can post.

School Resource Officers- Rob Wilcox

(See School Climate and Safety Committee Report for more information)

Rob is participating in the MCPS SRO working group. The working group has reviewed data related to SRO activity in schools, the Memorandum of Understanding between MCPS and law enforcement, and has begun discussing reasonable alternatives to the current program. The Working Group is to provide recommendation to the BOE in January.

Note that MCCPTA has an active resolution on SROs passed in 2010 that calls for one SRO assigned per school.

The School Climate and Safety Committee is discussing this issue with the DEI committee.

During this discussion, Cynthia indicated MCCPTA needs to look at the process related to resolutions and when they may need to be reassessed. This topic can be part of the upcoming Standing Rules development.

SSL Discussion

PTAs do not automatically have SSL approving authority. Currently 9 elementary schools plus MCCPTA are approved. The approval needs to be “re-upped” every three years.

MSDE has not waived SSL requirements for this year. We do not know whether they will waive the requirement for seniors.

MCCPTA SSL subcommittee chair (Garrick Yau) can provide more information. (SSL@mccpta.org)

MCPS Reopening Discussion

MCPS survey was released to parents/families on Nov 11. Cynthia collected questions regarding the survey, with 48 questions submitted within a day. There are many voices and opinions on this topic, so it is difficult for MCCPTA to take a definitive stand. MCCPTA Virtual Learning Committee is working on some issues. We need to consider longer term prospects for education in MCPS.

Presentation by Francesco Paganini, Sherwood CC, on reopening metrics

Our advocacy priorities indicate a scientific basis should be used to drive decisions about moving from all virtual to hybrid environment.

Francesco presented a comparison of MD Department of Health (MD-DH) metrics and MCPS metrics.

Both sets of metrics use positivity rate (% of tests that are positive) and case load (avg # cases per 100K over 14d)

The positivity rate threshold for moving to hybrid learning is similar for MCPS and MD-DH. However, the cases/100K is more restrictive for MCPS. MCPS threshold is <5 before any significant hybrid learning is allowed. The MD-DH metric permits hybrid learning at 5-15/100K, with expanded in-person at <5/100K. This difference has a significant impact. The MCPS threshold of <5 has not been met since April (likely due to under-testing at that time). Using the MD-DH threshold, hybrid learning would have occurred this school year until approximately Nov 15. Recent information from MCPS creates an impression that hybrid learning will occur second semester. That appears unlikely based on current and anticipated case load.

Francesco will present this information at the DA in November. We will seek opportunities for wider presentation of the information. (Post meeting note- a video is now available)

It was noted that the current metrics have been approved by the BOE. Any changes based on information such as that presented by Francesco will require a BOE vote.

**Officer Reports**

President- Cynthia Simonson- (See written report for details)

Student welfare is critically important. MCPS has a team that has been working on this effort (MCCPTA is included in the stakeholder group) and created a module for secondary students on The Culture of Respect. How this module will be rolled out to schools and transmitted to students is still TBD. Students that complete it will be eligible for 2 SSL hours. (Link to module in the written report)

Chamber of Commerce- several members of our Executive Committee met with the Montgomery County Chamber of Commerce to discuss where there is natural synergy between our organizations. We will look for more opportunities to discuss where there is alignment between our education advocacy and the county’s business interests.

Food security- There are reports that some schools require individuals to provide names before receiving meals. This should not happen. Cynthia is investigating.

MCCPTA office manager will populate the officer and committee report spreadsheet each month. The reports are a tool for officer conversations with MCPS. The reports also serve as background information for future members.

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

Michelle Gluck is the new Curriculum Committee chair.

The new ES schedule started Nov 11.

Eleventh graders who need to take the Algebra 1 or English assessments do not have to pass them, because of lack of time for bridge projects.

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

Primary focus- maintaining sponsors because the opportunities for their benefits are different this year,

VP for Administrative Issues- Rochelle Fink

Some BOD members have not completed the required boardsmanship training, or they completed the training and MCCPTA office does not have a copy of their certificate. Pam Loebach will request the missing certificates.

Once again requested SOCA information from MD PTA because we have not received it in several months. Local PTAs should continue to submit compliance items to MD PTA.

Nominating committee- have almost all members. We will vote on the committee at the DA meeting.

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

Final version of Advocacy Priorities is with the editor. It will include disclaimer regarding Zoom vote.

At the MD legislators’ priority meeting (overlapped with this meeting) Laura summarized MCCPTA priorities related to COVID-19 and importance of HVAC for return.

There is significant ongoing activity related to SSP. See written report for details.

Treasurer- Khristy Kartsakalis- (See written financial documents)

Current balance is $66,637. Outstanding checks- $947.

11,812 in membership received. Total Income YTD $13,475; Total Expenses YTD $9530; Net Income YTD $3945

Important deadline- 990s are due Nov 15. MCCPTA 990 will be submitted Nov 13.

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

Safe Tech- Lisa Cline (See written report)

“Screenagers: Next Chapter” viewing on November 17. Hosted by MCCPTA Safe Tech and Richard Montgomery HS.The committee is looking for a date to host “Social Dilemma.”

Safe Tech Vice Chair Laura Simon drafted parent/student survey to inform screen-based education post-pandemic.

She is also investigating screen protectors/blue light filters for Chromebooks.

Diversity, Equity, Inclusion- Yvonne Van Lowe (See written report)

The committee is launching a DEI listserv to share information with the community.

**Unfinished Business**

The bylaws committee’s proposed new bylaws were provided to the BOD and discussed during the meeting. There was one change to the version presented- Add a duty for the BOD (Article VIII, Section 4)- “A majority of the board can call for a financial review or audit at any time.”

There was a motion from the bylaws committee to present the draft bylaws, with the one addition, to the DA for approval. The motion passed by voice vote.

Next steps- the draft bylaws will be presented to the DA at the November 19 meeting and the DA will vote on January 26.

**New Business**

New work plans

Virtual Learning subcommittee- The written work plan was summarized by chair, Gail Ravnitzky Silberglied. The top goal of the committee is to advocate for all MCPS students while we are in the virtual learning environment. At the upcoming sixth meeting, the subcommittee will discuss technology, outdoor spaces, and mental health.

Michelle Gluck made a motion to approve the plan, seconded by Debby Orsak. The motion passed.

Curriculum committee- The written work plan was summarized by chair, Michelle Gluck.

The mission of the committee is: (1) Increase transparency of MCPS curriculum information – curriculum updates, changes, implementation, and data illuminating effectiveness; and (2) Promote partnership between MCPS staff and MCPS parents as the co-educators of MCPS students.

The committee plans to push information about curriculum out to parents and solicit curriculum feedback from parents. The committee wants to increase its reach to more members across the county. In particular, they need more parents of ES students.

Debby Orsak made a motion to approve the plan, seconded by Audra Dove. The motion passed.

Nominating committee- Less than seven members had been recruited, so the committee will be elected at the DA without prior BOD vote.

The meeting adjourned at 8:55 pm

Minutes submitted by Kellie Schoolar Reynolds, MCCPTA Secretary for BOD