

MCCPTA BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
June 2, 2016
Carver Auditorium

*Attending: President Paul Geller, VP Administration Steve Wilson, VP Programs
Melissa McKenna, DA Secretary Crystal Baker, outgoing Treasurer Behnaz Misry and
several other board members.*

NEW BUDGET

The meeting opened with discussion of how MCCPTA should communicate its involvement in the recent recordation tax increase that provided new revenue for Montgomery County Schools. Feedback included:

- Characterizing as MCCPTA supporting the *budget*, not a tax increase
- Emphasize benefits of increased revenue (limit to 3 bullet points)
- Notify members via listservs and a formal letter to Cluster Coordinators
- Is affordable housing a loophole that was not addressed? (Melissa)

After establishing quorum, the agenda was approved.

AFFIRMATIONS

Kudos to NEC-Sherwood AVP Carol Shivers and Springbrook Cluster Coordinator JoAnn Burl for participating in the East County social at the EC Recreation Center Friday night. Carol is a paraeducator at Greencastle ES, and JoAnn works with students in the community, which allows a nice connection with students outside school.

Q&A TOPICS

- How can we best advertise PTA?
 - Via clusters, bus stop fliers, social media
- Calendar: starting school 1 week earlier in 2017-18
 - BOE is soliciting public comment now, before November's vote
 - Consider polling PTAs to determine MCCPTA advocacy
 - Earlier start to provide more instructional time before spring
 - There's concern about conflicts with summer sports dates

- Testing/Eliminating Exams
 - In response to parents concerned about too many tests
 - Revisit? Unlikely
 - Replaced by quarterly assessments
 - Expect kinks the 1st year
 - Doesn't affect PARCC (BOE can't eliminate)
 - 2-year PARCC experiment: are kids really trying if tests don't count?

Paul wrapped discussion by noting the importance of student testimony at BOE and County Council. He said: "When kids testify, it moves mountains!"

OLD BUSINESS – none

NEW BUSINESS

- Membership listserv: Chair Tracie Potts requests approval to establish a new membership listserv. It was moved, seconded and approved. (*Frances Frost mentioned that an old, dormant one may exist.*)
- Sponsorship Committee: Let Paul know if you're interested.
- Advocacy: It's year-round, including this summer. A calendar of dates will be created for County Council hearings so members know when to sign up.
- Give Backpacks: Frances Frost mentioned the upcoming campaign to supply backpacks and school supplies to needy students.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- 6/8 Spring Training: For everyone, not just officers. Sign up via Signup Genius.
- Summer Delegates Assemblies: Informal meetings will continue on 4th Tuesdays at 7:30pm for those who can attend, including any local members.
- MDPTA Convention Aug 5-6
- BlueBook forms due June 30 – please turn them in!
- CIP Cluster Comments: Due in July. Meet with your President and Principal now to identify needs and concerns. Melissa will send a reminder.

- SSP (Subdivision Staging Policy) comments are due in the next few days from AVPs and CCs. This is the county growth policy that provides for adequate public facilities, including schools.

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.