

**MCCPTA Delegates Assembly
Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, November 22, 2011
7:30 pm, Carver Auditorium**

Call to Order

Kristin Tribble, President, called DA meeting to order at 7:43 pm.

PTA Mission Statement

Shebra Evans, DA Secretary, read the PTA mission statement.

Welcome and Introductions

Welcomed everyone and apologized for the late start due to the preceding program. Introduction was made of the MCCPTA Officers, so everyone can feel comfortable in asking for assistance and/or guidance in the future.

Approval of Agenda

All in favor of agenda as is. Motion was seconded and carried by voice vote.

Approval of October Minutes with a correction

Draft meeting minutes needs to be changed from November 22 to October 25. Moved to approve the meeting minutes. Motion was seconded and carried by voice vote.

Marian Greenblatt Award – Dr. Marshall Greenblatt, Marian Greenblatt Education Foundation

- The founder and president spoke to the DA about the teacher of the year award.
- They have been giving this award for the past 23 years in honor of Dr. Greenblatt's wife.
- For teachers who exemplified her belief.
- Ask PTA & Principals for nominations that do the following:
 - o Good job of educating students.
 - o Mentor/help/advise other teachers.
 - o Helps out in the community.
- Dr. Greenblatt mentioned they give:
 - o 1 high school junior in each of the 25 high schools \$100 for excellence in Social Studies.
 - o Provides scholarships for Watkins Mill HS juniors for excellence in foreign languages.
 - o Co-sponsors the Information Technology Foundation, which teaches computer repair skills.
 - o They have awarded \$102,900 to 74 teachers and 332 students since 1989.

Officer Reports

VP Administration, Paul Morrison

- Talked about the Nominating Committee.
- Sumbal Sheldon reintroduced each member on the nominating committee and announced their cluster.
- Sumbal is also the Special Events Chair. She talked about the award coming up (MCBRE: Outstanding Parent Volunteer) due January 5 and to contact her with any questions (sheldonali20879@comcast.net).

Treasurer's Report

- Membership is growing and we are up to 25K members.
- Remind local PTA's to pay dues.
- Send in dues to MDPTA & National.

QUESTION:

1. Where were we last year? **We are ahead of goal and have been so since the last DA meeting.**

QUESTION:

2. How many members? **25,900 members.**

MCCPTA Committee Reports

Membership – Janette Gilman, Chair

- Per Kristin, you should continue to increase your memberships
- Once Janette arrived she suggested having membership tables at all upcoming events.

Bylaws Committee Chair, Sandy Holloway, Great Seneca Creek ES

- Different language submitted for amendment received from the NEC Consortium.
- Issues will be resolved.
- Apologies for no report.

Operating Budget – Jean Schlesinger, Chair

- Good news
 - o The November distribution of Operating Budget in Brief FY 2013 was positive. There was a verily significant surplus, but haven't seen the numbers.
- Will put together talking points after December 13 so people can use for talks with their council members.
- Important dates:
 - o November 28 – Operating Budget committee is meeting to talk on how to keep the membership informed and how to effectively advocate.
 - o December 7 – Superintendent will present his Recommended Operating Budget (7:30 p.m. @ Richard Montgomery High School).
 - o December 19 – Cluster Coordinators can begin signing up for OB Hearings.
 - o January 4 – Funding for Schools/Maintenance of Effort Forum (7:30 p.m. @ Carver).
 - **QUESTION:** Is this MOE forum in lieu of what we used to do for the Operating Budget Forum? **It is in addition to, but before and an opportunity to ask our elected officials their positions on the Operating Budget.**
 - o January 5 – Operating Budget Workshop (5:30-7:30 pm @ Carver).

Capital Improvement Program Budget Chair, Steve Augustino

- Thanked everyone for attending and testifying on Nov 9 & 16 and it made the difference.
- More work.....advocacy shifts to county council.

Unfinished Business

Proposed Resolution on Honors Courses in Middle School

Ted spoke on behalf of the Curriculum Committee. Looking for a way to differentiate teaching for students.

- Kristin intervened to mention Standing Rules (explanation of debate 10 minutes for topic and 2 minutes per speaker).
- Joyce Brinner, Poolesville HS moved to extend debate by 2 minutes. Motion was seconded and carried by voice vote.
- All in favor of Honors Courses in Middle School being adopted was seconded and carried by voice vote.

Proposed Resolution on Honors Courses in Middle School
Submitted by the Curriculum Committee and Gifted Child Committee
Presented at the October 25th Delegates Assembly
To be voted on at the November 22nd Delegates Assembly

WHEREAS

A middle school teacher often has more than 150 students, a severe obstacle in getting to know all students well, which presents difficulties in providing appropriately differentiated instruction.

Middle school classes are usually about 45 minutes long, a severe obstacle in providing meaningful differentiation to students who are academically advanced.

The middle school magnet programs have far more qualified applicants than they are able to accommodate, meaning that many academically advanced students depend upon their home schools for appropriate instruction.

A well rounded curriculum involves not just mathematics and English, but all of the core subject areas

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED

MCPS should provide honors courses (or other appropriately designated courses) in all core subject areas for academically advanced students in Middle School in addition to challenging on-grade level courses designed to meet the needs of most students.

New Business

Proposed Legislative Platform 2011-2012

Larry Edmonds discussed the upcoming Legislative dinner on November 30, 2011. To date there have been 26 legislators that are confirmed to attend.

- Larry Edmonds moved to bring forth the Legislative Platform. Motion was moved and approved.
- Susan Nogin, Gaithersburg MS, moved to refer this back to the Legislative Committee. No second and motioned failed.
- Susan Fleck, Montgomery Blair Cluster Coordinator, moved to propose an amendment to add student voting rights on the BOE. Motion does not carry.
- Ted Willard, Clarksburg AVP, moved to extend debate by 6 minutes. Motion was seconded and carried by voice vote.
- No objections to delete "common core."
- All in favor of inserting "we recognize the state's authority to set minimum standards; however" at the beginning of the Curriculum Authority section. Motion was seconded and carried by voice vote.
- Susan Nogin, Gaithersburg MS, moved to refer to committee. Does not carry.
- Jean Schlesinger, Operating Budget Chair, moved to extend debate 6 minutes. Motion does not carried by standing vote (**FOR: 30; OPPOSED 33**).
- Motion does not carry to refer to committee.
- All in favor of adopting Legislative Platform 2011-2012 as amended. Motion was seconded and carried by voice vote.

Legislative Platform 2011-2012

Funding for public education should be a top priority both at the State and County level. Our children must receive a high quality education with all the necessary supports to achieve and succeed both within school and after graduation. A redefined curriculum, qualified teachers, technology, and a safe environment are just a few necessities to achieve a quality education. In order to support our children's educational opportunities, Montgomery County Council of PTAs supports the following positions.

- The principle of Maintenance of Effort – County governments should maintain their investment in the local school system and not rely on State funds to replace their own contribution. Maintenance of Effort does not provide for inflation or new initiatives. It is simply the lowest level of funding to maintain current services. Our elected leaders should strive to increase their investment to achieve improvement in schools rather than simply seek to limit their investment.
- State Penalty – Should the county not meet its obligations and underfund the school system below a Maintenance of Effort level of funding, the State penalty should be imposed upon the County Government. Currently, the school system is forced to absorb the state penalty in the year following that which the school system was underfunded. This places undue burden on the school system struggling with decreased funding.
- Maintenance of Effort Waiver Process – Currently, a county may opt not to file a waiver to underfund a Maintenance of Effort funding level. When this occurs, the Maintenance of Effort level “rebases” or automatically decreases to the level determined by the County Government (not the Board of Education), regardless of previous funding experience.
 - The waiver should be mandated for those County governments who adopt a budget that does not meet Maintenance of Effort.
 - The waiver approval process should take into account a variety of factors to include the county Board of Education's *support* for a lower Maintenance of Effort level.
 - The waiver approval process should allow for potential and explicit cost efficiencies as sufficient argument for approval.
 - The waive approval process should review the history of county funding and allow some flexibility for one-time larger investments in a specific year in order to provide incentives for county support for education.

- State Capital Improvement Funding – State funding should be adequate, timely, and distributed equitably based on student enrollment in each district.

- Funding Responsibility for Maryland State Teacher Retirement – We oppose any consideration of shifting the funding responsibility for the teacher retirement program onto county governments at this time. County governments are currently struggling and adding this burden at this time is inappropriate and of questionable value.

- Curriculum Authority – We support the current authority of local Boards of Education to determine curriculum as this provides us with the best opportunity to advocate and share concerns with regard to our children's instruction. We also support the development of optional curriculum by the State. However, any mandated curricula by the State should be accompanied by the funding needed to implement them.

Announcements

We will see everyone in January!

Meeting adjourned at 9:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Shebra Evans

Delegate Assembly Recording Secretary