

MCCPTA DELEGATES ASSEMBLY

November 22, 2016

Carver Auditorium

Attending: President Paul Geller, VP Administration Stephen Wilson, VP Programs Melissa McKenna, Treasurer Lisa Betts, Cluster Coordinators and Delegates.

The meeting was called to order at 7:43pm. President Geller referred to his listserv note earlier today urging delegates to be civil when posting. The Mission of PTA was read in English and Spanish. Affirmations –Drew ES PTA President Benito San Miguel was recognized. The Agenda and Minutes were approved.

OLD BUSINESS

Advocacy Priorities

Based on feedback at summer area meetings, approved Nov. 3 by Board of Directors. Please discuss with PTAs before January vote. After approval, copies will be shared with elected officials and used to prepare testimony. Schools "teaming up" to advocate is effective. A December "Advocacy Priorities" night may be planned to explain in further detail. An electronic version is attached to Mr. Geller's Nov. 22 listserv message. Benito San Miguel will translate into Spanish [now posted at MCCPTA.org.] Last year's report card was distributed.

NEW BUSINESS

Student Protests

Paul met with Superintendent Dr. Smith, who's concerned about students demonstrating during school hours. He encourages students to organize outside school hours. Delegates suggest an MCCPTA statement; conversations to find ways for students to discuss and dissent; immigration clinics with community groups (Paul will check); schools with successful demonstrations (Paint Branch HS) developing best practices.

School Calendar 2017-18

Starts day after Labor Day and ends by June 15 per Gov. Hogan's order. Waivers are limited. MD will withhold 10% from districts that don't comply. The calendar committee is discussing whether to shorten/eliminate Spring Break, religious holidays or other days to accommodate. A decision is expected Dec 13. Most delegates present support starting earlier. Delegates discussed whether to advocate for local rights when the MD General Assembly resumes January 11, given future support needed for construction funding. Suggestion: change attendance requirement from days to hours for more flexibility. Year-end testing dates are tied to federal requirements and can't be shifted later.

OFFICER REPORTS

(See written reports)

President Paul Geller

He's been visiting schools and testifying. He's unsure how May's school budget vote will affect current county council members. Be aware when preparing testimony.

VP Administration Stephen Wilson

Four (4) nominating committee members are needed from these areas: BCC/Walter Johnson/Whitman; Damascus/Gaithersburg/Magruder/Watkins Mill; Clarksburg/Northwest/Quince Orchard/Seneca Valley and one at-large. Talk to your clusters and get names to your AVP. Names must be published in early January to vote at January's DA. This committee nominates officers for coming year. There are also 2 current openings.

Treasurer Lisa Betts

See financials. All income is from membership. Audit is done and filed. Paul thanked Lisa for cutting costs.

VP Programs Melissa McKenna

Reflections theme is "What's your story?" All schools should have chairs and schedule voting soon. PTAs MUST be SOCA compliant to participate. Verify with your Cluster Coordinator, AVP or Steve. Operating budget hearings are January 5 and 11. New BOE members, president & VP will be installed Dec. 1.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

(See written reports)

CIP – Melissa McKenna

All 25 clusters testified during capital budget hearings! Next: February County Council CIP hearings.

BOE selected Bethesda-Chevy Chase boundary option 7, which prioritizes living geographically close to a school. Rock Creek Forest will be split: local students go to the new middle school and Spanish immersion students to Westland to avoid having one school over and one under capacity in the same cluster.

Walter Johnson cluster - Discussing reopening Woodward as a high school to accommodate new residential development. Area high schools can accommodate additions but will have no more expansion space.

Subdivision Staging Policy (SSP) – County Council approved an individual school test for overcrowding but can still impose placeholders for additions to allow development. The School Facility Payment goes away but is balanced by the increased 120% impact tax, based on current costs. Schools will get \$16 million more over 6 years. Please use social media to thank council members publicly.

State: Monitoring the Knott Commission, which wants to build more schools faster and cheaper than last 15 years but are not tornado or derecho proof.

FACT scores to determining Revitalizations/Expansions are delayed until February/March. Information arrived late from the outside contractor that assessed schools last summer. MCPS may address partial needs.

Membership – Tracie Potts

21,968 members to date. 102 PTAs have reported. 91 have not. Certificates were awarded to 36 PTAs that exceeded last year's total. From these, a drawing was held for 10 gift cards and a 5'x3' custom vinyl banner.

The meeting adjourned at 9:37 PM