MCCPTA DELEGATES ASSEMBLY

January 28, 2020

Richard Montgomery High School Cafeteria

Meeting was called to order by Cynthia Simonson at 7:05 pm. Quorum was established and the Agenda was approved.

*Kellie Schoolar-Reynolds, BOD Secretary*, explained why Cynthia Simonson is acting MCCPTA President and reread the bylaws section she sent out in her January 17, 2020 email to all delegates. The Nominating Committee is currently looking for nominations to fill the MCCPTA President’s position and the DA will vote at the February meeting to install a new president.

*Ed Clarke, Director of School Safety and Security for MCPS* gave an update from his office. He started with a brief mention of the six mandatory drills that MCPS students must practice during the year as dictated by the Maryland BOE. All drills are age appropriate in a developmental way. He then moved on to discuss Behavioral Threat Assessment and the process of training school staff, they are working on training a behavioral assessment team at each school in the county. The training is two days with scenarios and focusing on prevention and intervention. In all situations, local law enforcement would be brought in when necessary.

There are six new school safety positons established to assist elementary schools with training and mentoring on school safety, right now there are no school security officers assigned to elementary schools. Middle schools have 2 and high schools have teams.

The office is working on upgrading technology for the officers in the field. They are also very concerned with pedestrian safety and working closely with Vision Zero.

Safety is looked at during new school construction.

If anyone has an area of concern – bus stop/drop off area – start with your school’s principal and/or the transportation office supervisor.

The office is also looking for ways to communicate directly with students about safety, maybe messaging of some type.

Mr. Clarke did a Q&A session after his presentation.

*New Business* began at 7:45 pm.

Tracie Potts explained the PTA’s role in the upcoming election cycle. The PowerPoint slide deck has already been emailed out and is uploaded into the January 2020 folder on OneDrive. Remember to keep social media accounts unbiased. PTA’s can be subject to IRS consequences so be careful when posting information or unintentionally endorsing candidates.

Cynthia Simonson then gave an update on course selection; more information is on the slides.

Cynthia also gave an overview of the BOE structure and how it works. She also encouraged delegates and cluster coordinators to let the county council know that the budget is underfunded and highlight the most important projects in their testimony.

*Old Business* began at 8:16 pm.

Updates were given on the following:

Capital Improvement Plan

Boundary Analysis

Operating Budget

Advocacy Priorities

OLO Report

February 13, 2020 is Annapolis Day for MCCPTA and MDPTA. Plan on joining in and showing up to Annapolis to show engagement and support for bills like Kirwan. Laura Stewart is looking into organizing carpools but busses are too expensive.

*Officer reports* began at 8:39 pm

James Modrick – will write a report for the shared folder, apologizes, he is late due to Reflections. He made a pitch for a new Reflections chair. Save the date for May 21st, this will be the former Presidents/Principals dinner. Remember, the JA Business Challenge for middle schools, you can still sign up.

Tracie Potts – exciting announcement – our own Zoe Tishaev (MCR SGA) is the National PTA Youth Advocate of the Year!

*Committee Updates & Announcements* began at 8:45 pm.

Oriole Saah– application date for the new Support Staff of the Year award is coming up. Parents and PTAs should consider all support staff who touch their students’ lives. Link: <http://nebula.wsimg.com/f64f4fd92af730cba1f4366ef6b38ec9?AccessKeyId=AB71C8A62DC88BF7171E&disposition=0&alloworigin=1>

Gillian Huebner– Child Protection group is expanding, gave an update on the MCPS task force.

Sunil Dasgupta – recap of the 1/11 mental health workshop, about 300 people attended, 50 providers staffed tables. If any school/PTA is interested in mental health training, reach out, since it is free.

Laura Mitchell – Operating Budget Forum and Kirwan meetings were good. In March testimony before the county council to support the BOE Budget. Substance Abuse Committee – they have a new trailer that has been outfitted like a teenager’s bedroom, they give guided tours to parents as to what to look for in a kid’s bedroom as signs for substance abuse and other issues.

The meeting adjourned at 8:51 pm.