

**MCCPTA DELEGATES ASSEMBLY MEETING MINUTES**  
**November 28, 2018**  
**Carver Educational Services Center Auditorium**

**Welcome and Introduction of Officers** - MCCPTA President Lynne Harris welcomed delegates and introduced the MCCPTA Officers (all) present; Lynne Harris, Tracie Potts, Erin Clegg, Cynthia Simonson, Daria Daniel, Khristy Kartsakalis and Laura Stewart.

**Call to Order** – President Lynne Harris called the meeting to order at 7:36pm.

**Approval of Agenda and Minutes** – The agenda was approved amended by consensus. The October DA Minutes were accepted without amendment by consensus.

**MCCPTA MINUTE**

- **MCPS Minute – School Energy and Recycling Teams (SERT)** – Jim Stufft, SERT facilitator and Laura Johnson Collard, Director of the Maryland Association for Environmental and Outdoor Education (MAEOE) discussed the Maryland Green Schools program and shared the list of MCPS in the Green School program. There is a certification process and criteria a school must meet to be considered a green school. Sample activities for schools include planting, recycling, reducing school waste and identifying cost saving energy measures.
  - Currently 85 MCPS schools are considered green schools; 27 percent of all MCPS.
  - MCPS has a goal to increase this number to 64% by 2024.
  - For more information go to [www.maeoe.org](http://www.maeoe.org); [www.greenschoolsfocus.org](http://www.greenschoolsfocus.org) or
  - Jim Stufft at [jim\\_stufft@mcpsmd.org](mailto:jim_stufft@mcpsmd.org); or Laura Johnson Collard at [director@maeoe.org](mailto:director@maeoe.org)
  
- **First Communities Minute – Dr. Marshal Greenblatt, Greenblatt Education Awards** – Dr. Greenblatt discussed the awards he leads to recognize excellent teachers and students in MCPS. The Greenblatt Awards program was started in memory of Mr. Greenblatt’s late wife Marian who was a MCPS teacher. The awards have been given out over \$160,000 in the 30-year history of the recognition program. Monetary awards for teachers range from one \$1,000 award (for new teacher) and three \$2,000 awards for experienced teachers. There are several awards for students too. Typically, 50-60 nominations are received each year. The winners are selected based on the letters/recommendations sent in by MCPS parents, faculty and students.
  - For more information, including how to nominate a teacher or student go to [www.greenblatteducationfund.org](http://www.greenblatteducationfund.org)
  
- **Second Community Minute – Satchel Kornfeld, Mont. Co. Volunteer Fire & Rescue Association**  
Mr. Kornfeld discussed how Montgomery County Fire & Rescue is a hybrid of personnel including 1200 volunteer personnel out of 2500 staff.
  - The volunteer association recruit people from the ages of 16 and up
  - There is a Cadet program for rising high school juniors
  - Willing to give presentations at schools.
  - Students can earn SSL hours
  - For more information email Mr. Kornfeld at [skornfeld@mcvfra.org](mailto:skornfeld@mcvfra.org) or go to website at [www.mcvfra.org](http://www.mcvfra.org)

## **OLD BUSINESS**

- **Action Item - Approval of Nominating Committee** – VP of Administration Tracie Potts presented the names of the MCCPTA 2018-19 Nominating Committee and moved to confirm the committee. The motion was seconded and approved unanimously.
  - **The Nominating Committee members are as follows:**
    - Rahm Tenanquarela – Clarksburg/Northwest/Quince Orchard/Seneca Valley
    - Rodney Peele – Churchill/Richard Montgomery/Poolesville/Rockville/Wootton
    - Chris Rutledge – At Large Member
    - Sally McCarthy – Bethesda-Chevy Chase/Walter Johnson/Walt Whitman
    - Dierdre Appel – Damascus/Gaithersburg/Magruder/Watkins Mill
    - Kendra Harris – Blake/Paint Branch/Springbrook/Sherwood
    - Fred Azcarate – Blair/Einstein/Kennedy/Northwood/Wheaton
  
- **Safe Routes/Stops Update** – Chair Jason Sartori mentioned he is still organizing the committee via a Yahoo group. You can email him at [jason@jksartori.com](mailto:jason@jksartori.com) to join committee or share information. Focus of the committee in coordination with Vision Zero is the following:
  - Education and Outreach to local PTAs in promoting safe habits for students and families
  - Data collection on school/bus stop safety
  - Advocacy efforts with MCPS, County Council and MD legislature
  
- **Curriculum Update – VP of Education Cynthia Simonson**

VP of Education Cynthia Simonson provided an update on MCPS new Math and English/Language Arts (ELA) curriculum roll out at elementary (ES) and middle schools (MS).

  - MCPS held an all-day meeting on Math on November 19, 2018.
  - MCPS Chief Academic Officer Dr. Maria Navarro sent a letter to families on new curriculum, links to sites and process to provide feedback to MCPS central office
  - Simonson emphasized important to provide feedback to show engagement on part of families
  - Email sent in November to families at schools impacted by new curriculum
    - ❖ Total of 78 schools in two cohorts
    - ❖ 36 ES and 42 MS – some schools getting new Math and ELA
  
- **CIP Recap/Next Steps – CIP Chair Katya Marin**

Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) Chair Katya Marin noted the MCPS FY 2020 CIP budget plan had been released and she provided a recap of the MCPS Board of Education (BOE) CIP Hearings.

  - She noted great student turnout and participation.
  - Major themes included additions, maintenance and school safety.
  - There were some budget amendments, including
    - ❖ \$3 million for bathrooms
    - ❖ \$2 million in special appropriations for water bottle fillers to be installed at MCPS that currently do not have them.
    - ❖ \$5 million also added by Superintendent for school updates/maintenance
    - ❖ CIP budget next goes to County Executive and County Council for approval
      - Still time/opportunity to advocate
  - New forecasting methodology

- Can view testimony online and BOE Q/A at BOE website - <https://mcpsmd.new.swagit.com/videos/21106>

## **NEW BUSINESS**

- **Operating Budget – Chair Laura Mitchell**

Operating Budget Chair Laura Mitchell discussed that operating budget for MCPS deals with everyday costs minus bricks and mortar. She noted she has a couple of openings on the committee for an At Large member and one for Churchill/Rockville/Richard Montgomery/Poolesville/Wootton area. She said committee has been categorized in major areas and has a representative from committee assigned to these. She noted key dates:

- MCPS FY 2020 Budget Overview would be released on December 4
- Full budget would be released on December 18 - virtual town hall meeting
- January 9 & 14, 2019 will be the BOE public hearings
- January 5 will be MCCPTA Budget forum and testimony workshop from 8:30am – noon
  - ❖ Location TBD
  - ❖ There will be a point person for each major area/category
    - Names/contact information will be shared online

## **OFFICER REPORTS**

- **President – Lynne Harris** – President Lynne Harris noted that she was proud of the work the MCCPTA was doing. She highlighted several new initiatives and/or partnerships including:
  - **Vision Zero** – to ensure safe school bus stops
  - **Treehouse** – to help MCPS children that have suffered abuse
  - **MCPS Family Justice Center** – due to Damascus HS incident, to get best practices to eliminate toxic locker room culture. **Hosting April 9 workshop on dating.**
  - **Educational Foundation** – to provide backpacks, chrome books and instrumental music program repair for MCPS students.
  - **Action with MCPS Students** – SGA Rep on MCCPTA Board; host student forum; team up on projects.
  - **Work with MCPS Principals** – met with MCAAP at November BOD meeting; suggested best practices for collaborative relationship with PTSA/School Administrators- sprung from work with OSSI.
  - **Mental Health and Wellness Forum** – next one will be held in January; also upcoming on Racial Justice and Family Engagement Forums
  - **MCPS Parent Workshops** – MCCPTA hosting one on December 4.
- **VP of Education – Cynthia Simonson** – VP of Education Cynthia Simonson discussed the University System of Maryland (USM) and meeting admission requirements for 12 of 14 schools and a new reporting change implemented a year ago.
  - 2016 – 80.4 percent of MCPS graduates met requirements
  - 2017 – 50.8 percent of MCPS met requirements

**Three standards to consider:** Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE); MCPS and USM

  - *All have different minimum requirements for graduation*
  - 85 percent of graduates must meet minimum requirement; rest competing for 15 percent slots.

**What explains major drop in 2017 compared to 2016?**

- **Nothing conclusive yet – but need/trying to figure out.** Could be reporting error; new 4-year math requirement...stay tuned. Raised with OSSI.
- **VP of Administration – Tracie Potts** – VP of Education Tracie Potts started remarks highlighting that Flower Hill ES received a National PTA grant. Congratulations!
  - **SOCA Update** – Out of 193 PTAs – 51 compliant. Will send next update when received.
  - **Communications Committee** – Bluebooks given out already
    - ❖ Online version coming soon – updating with fall PTSA election information
  - **Nominations Committee** – will be getting started soon – need new leaders!
    - ❖ Need DA Secretary since last one resigned; let committee know if interested
- **VP of Programs – Erin Clegg** – VP of Programs Erin Clegg shared/played a video from MCPS Derek Turner on the Damascus HS incident related to bullying, harassment and hazing. This video was sent to all MCPS HS students and parents.
  - Delegates expressed concerns about communication/information sharing by MCPS regarding incident, to parents.
  - MCCPTA plans to take more active role going forward
- **VP of Advocacy – Laura Stewart** – VP of Advocacy Laura Stewart discussed the following:
  - **Legislative Priorities Hearing** – recently held in Rockville that included 95 speakers. Laura spoke on major issues including safe routes, healthy schools; safe locker rooms; mental health supports.
  - **Legislative Reception** – this will be held on December 18 for MCCPTA BOD, Montgomery County Council and MD state delegation.
  - **Kirwan Commission** – Laura mentioned that there will be public hearing for comments this Friday from 5:00-8:00pm. Laura will be speaking on behalf of MCCPTA. Related to graduation requirements as mentioned by Cynthia Simonson, there is an option for students to show knowledge by work with teacher if they do not pass all standardized tests. There could be move by Kirwan Commission to eliminate this option.
- **Membership Update – Chair Carrie Paulson** – Membership Chair Carrie Paulson gave out some membership awards from last year and provided gift cards to schools that won the October Membership Photo Challenge (including Northwest HS, Cabin John MS, Tilden MS, Flower Valley ES, Glen Allen ES, Bayard Rustin ES).
  - The November Membership Challenge will be for PTSA to exceed the number of paid PTSA members from last year.

### **Adjournment**

Meeting was adjourned by consensus at 9:05pm.

Minutes recorded by MCCPTA BOD Secretary Daria Daniel