**DRAFT MINUTES- MCCPTA Board of Directors Meeting**

**September 9, 2020**

**Zoom meeting**

Cynthia Simonson, MCCPTA President, called the meeting to order at 7:02 pm.

A quorum was present. The agenda and August minutes were approved.

**Updates**

Update on MD PTA- Cynthia Simonson

National PTA met with the leaders of the six council PTAs in Maryland. Cynthia and Rodney represented MCCPTA.

MD PTA should not be sending information to the members; however, they continue to send notices. MD PTA filed with the court to stop National PTA’s actions. So far, it has not been filed correctly.

National PTA has indicated the voice of membership can be effective. Members can write messages regarding their concerns with MD PTA to MD PTA, the MD PTA attorney, and National PTA.

MCCPTA can write an Amicus Brief indicating we agree with National PTA’s action. If this action is only approved by the BOD, it will be indicated as such when submitted. Another council drafted a change.org document regarding issues with MD PTA. A link will be sent to us and members can sign if interested.

National PTA is looking at MD PTA bylaws and Maryland law to determine whether there is a reason we cannot hold virtual membership meetings, with official votes. However, we currently cannot have virtual membership meetings. Thus, we plan to hold the 2-stage delegate assembly, with the official vote in person on the second night.

Motion: If National PTA provides instructions that allow virtual membership meetings, the MCCPTA executive committee can change plans for the delegate assembly. Motion by Rodney Peele; 2nd Jane Lehrman. No discussion; motion carried.

Motion: MCCPTA BOD should submit an Amicus Brief supporting National PTA in the restructuring of MD PTA.

Motion by Debby Orsak; 2nd by Yeages Cowan. No discussion; motion carried.

The item can also be taken to the DA to determine whether they want to vote on the motion.

Current status of dues- National PTA can open a temporary checking account for locals to send dues. We will receive further instructions. Local PTAs do not need to send dues until October. Note- dues payed in MemberHub go to MD PTA.

We need to let MD PTA know that membership dues should not be used to pay their legal fees.

**Officer Reports**

President- Cynthia Simonson- (See written report for details)

Items not in the written report:

The annual MCCPTA BOD/MCPS BOE meeting is scheduled for Oct 29. We will start the conversation about topics by email.

Cynthia will meet with BOE staff to discuss the status of the three BOE/cluster meetings that were cancelled in the spring and the six that should occur this school year. Some intended for this school year may be postponed.

VP Educational Issues- Rodney Peele- (See written report for details)

The state board of education is requiring a specific number of instructional hours per day. MCPS is assessing their schedule but does not need to consider changes until the end of the calendar year.

MCPS will administer MAP tests this fall to determine whether there was a loss in learning. It was not clear whether results would be reported on a cluster wide on individual basis.

VP of Programs- James Modrick- (written report only)

VP of Advocacy- Laura Stewart- (See written report for details)

Meeting with the Black and Brown Coalition every other week. The coalition is advocating for appropriate supports during the COVID-19 emergency.

SSP subcommittee is meeting with County Council members to discuss the upcoming vote. MCCPTA is using advocacy priorities from last year to support the discussion.

Treasurer- Khristy Kartsakalis- will provide update during budget discussion.

Administrative Committee Chair- Rochelle Fink

The board members should have received calendar invitations for meetings. Board members should use their MCCPTA email. Rochelle will send username and password to individuals who do not have them.

Continue to send SOCA items to MD PTA, but copy National PTA ([MDPTA@pta.org](mailto:MDPTA@pta.org)). Hold dues until October.

**Committees**

Financial review committee- Laura Mitchell, Oriole Saah, Melissa Regan. (Written report available)

The financial records are in excellent shape. There were minor observations related to a few membership dues and the year they were credited.

Motion to approve the report (Debby Orsak; 2nd by Jane Lehrman. The motion carried.

**New Business**

New Cluster Coordinator to affirm: Therese Gibson (Kennedy cluster)- Therese was affirmed as a CC.

There was a motion to form a committee to revise the bylaws, with the committee consisting of: Jennifer Young, Adam Lee, Laura Mitchell, Yeages Cowan, Kellie Reynolds. (Moved by Debby Orsak; 2nd by Jane Lehrman. The motion carried.)

Safe Tech letter to Maryland State Department of Education- Lisa Cline proposed sending a letter from the MCCPTA Safe Tech committee related to best digital online practices, (Draft letter provided) The letter would be in response to MSDE’s requirement for 3.5 hrs of instruction per day across all age groups. The letter would be a reminder of a 2018 document from MSDE regarding device usage. Following discussion, the board did not vote on this item because there was not a call for a specific action by MSDE.

Discussion and voting on workplans. Note- many workplans were discussed last month. All are available in the September meeting folder. The vote on the workplans is for the work, not the $$ amount. The $$ is part of the budget discussion.

Notes regarding workplans not discussed last month-

CIP- Important to advocate in this area because this may be the first time County Council cuts this budget.

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion- This is a crosscutting topic and the committee will need to consult with other committees. One important are- training related to hate and bias.

LGBTQ- Includes training regarding sensitivity. The committee did well helping establish clubs last year. They will reach out to local PTAs.

Health and Wellness- there are multiple subcommittees. They still need a chair for the mental health subcommittee. Cynthia reminded the committee to coordinate with MCPS on the Mental Health Forum.

New subcommittee- environmental health- will include air quality.

Curriculum- The committee/MCCPTA typically hosts curriculum nights along with MCPS. The committee wants to reach out to parents across the county for input.

There was a question about the overall development of the committee. The chair/vice chair indicated they will discuss this topic and look at the model used by the Gifted Child committee. They were encouraged to develop a committee that has meetings to discuss curriculum related topics.

Engagement subcommittee (of membership committee)- The plan includes awarding grants. Comment- committee needs to indicate how grant money will be used.

Special Education- Committee will work with GC committee on issues relevant to “twice exceptional” groups.

Committee will work to keep parents of special education students informed of relevant processes.

Safe Routes subcommittee- The subcommittee wants to continue making progress on safe routes issues, even while there is less travel occurring. There are video projects related to traveling safely. They want to ensure safety is considered at the beginning of construction projects, not at the end.

Awards committee submitted a workplan.

Training committee- as training is developed, the committee will need to work with communications committee.

School climate and safety- Areas of focus this year include: gun violence prevention, SRO workgroup, discipline/behavioral threat assessment.

BOD voted on workplans by group (Pres/VP oversight)

(VP Programs): Celebration of Excellence; Reflections- motion to approve by Debby Orsak; 2nd by Laura Mitchell. Motion carried.

(President): Safe Tech; School Climate and Safety; Safe Routes; Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion- motion to approve by Debby Orsak; 2nd by Jane Lehrman. Motion carried.

(Treasurer): Membership and engagement- motion to approve by Debby Orsak; 2nd by Kristin Erdheim. Motion carried.

(VP Educational Issues): Curriculum; ESOL; Gifted Child; Special Education

Prior to motion and voting, there was additional discussion of the curriculum committee workplan. The committee needs to update the plan based on BOD feedback prior to a vote.

ESOL; Gifted Child; Special Education - motion to approve by Laura Mitchell; 2nd by Debby Orsak. Motion carried.

(VP Administration): Awards; Communications; Training; Bylaws- motion to approve by Debby Orsak; 2nd by Tammy Fox. Motion carried.

(VP Advocacy): Advocacy; CIP; Health and Wellness; Operating budget- motion to approve by Debby Orsak; 2nd by Jane Lehrman. Motion carried.

Budget: Khristy Kartsakalis, Treasurer, presented the proposed budget for the year. The committee budgets in draft were based on submitted workplans. There is $0 budget if a workplan was not submitted or the committee did not request a budget.

The projected membership income ($35,000) is lower than last year’s budget or actual. We do not know whether the virtual environment will decrease or increase membership.

The two $10,000 income items related to Celebration of Excellence (sponsorship and tickets) are rough estimates. It is not possible to predict the situation in the spring. (However, the $20,000 expense is also associated with the event.)

The Blue Book expense includes the amount for last year and this year.

Although $700 is budgeted for marketing, we need to use our new copier for as many materials as possible.

Budget for committees was adjusted due to workplans, including increasing Advocacy to $1100, Membership and Engagement to $3200, and adding $2900 for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion.

Due to uncertainty related to MCCPTA income, expenses, and activities, we will take a close look at budget status in January and determine whether adjustments are needed.

Motion: Approve the budget, with adjustments based on workplans, to present to the DA for a vote. The budget includes approximately $30,000 carryover to next year. (Motion by Laura Mitchell; 2nd by Debby Orsak)

The motion carried.

Charter Amendment Discussion-

There are four charter amendments on the ballot this fall. We are only discussing A and B.

A- “Amend section 305 of the County Charter to prohibit a tax real property that exceeds the tax rate on real property approved for the previous year, unless all current Councilmembers vote affirmatively for the increase.”

B- “Amend section 305 of the County Charter to prohibit the County Council from levying an ad valorem tax on real property that would produce total revenue (not including property tax revenue from certain enumerated sources) that exceeds the total revenue produced by the tax on real property in the preceding fiscal year plus a percentage of the previous year’s real property tax revenues that equals any increase in the Consumer Price Index. Section 305 currently permits the County Council to exceed the limit on real property tax revenue only upon the affirmative vote of all current Councilmembers.”

Laura Stewart, VP Advocacy, included information about the two amendments in her officer report. She focused on Amendment B. Many unions and other advocacy groups and real estate agents are against Amendment B. It would make it illegal for the County Council to ever raise property tax above the rate of inflation. There is a coalition advocating against B. MCCPTA BOD could vote to add our name to the coalition materials.

There was a comment that this issue may be too divisive for the BOD to act on without DA input.

There was a suggestion to connect with business community regarding their thoughts on the issue.

Motion: The Board recommends that the MCCPTA DA oppose Charter Amendment B and allow MCCPTA to publicly state this position. (Motion from Frances Frost; 2nd by Jane Lehrman). The motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 9:49 pm

Minutes submitted by Kellie Schoolar Reynolds, MCCPTA Secretary for BOD