

Montgomery County Council of Parent Teacher Associations (MCCPTA)
Minutes of the Delegate Assembly on March 19, 2008
Carver Educational Services Center Auditorium

Program

Community Superintendent, Dr. Frank Stetson, discussed School Improvement Plans (SIPs) including issues of parent involvement in the development of SIPs and the types of goals schools make in their plans. He noted that OSP is encouraging schools to conduct their own surveys for use in the SIP process.

Business Meeting

OPENING BUSINESS

Call to Order: MCCPTA President Jane de Winter called the meeting to order at 8:10

Mission: Vice President for Educational Issues Kay Romero read the mission of the PTA.

Agenda: Kindergarten Orientation added as an item under a New Business section.

Minutes: The minutes from the February Delegates Assembly were distributed and reviewed. Spelling and typographical errors were corrected. Linna Barnes made a motion to approve the minutes as corrected. The motion was seconded and approved by voice vote.

Treasure's Report: Dale Ryan reviewed the Treasurer's Report. Membership is still below our goals for this year and where we were at this point last year. We have received over \$7,000 in sponsorships of Presidents and Principals Dinner so far. There are some promised sponsorships that we expect to receive and so we hope to reach our goal of \$12,000. We are spending slightly less than we had budgeted, but given the lower than expected membership, we need to keep a close watch on things. About 8 or 9 schools still need to pay their insurance.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Communications Committee

Patti Twigg, Communications Committee chair reported that a listserv has been created for Treasurers. Not all treasurers are currently on the listserv. She is working to get the rest of the schools on. She asked that PTAs check to make sure that their treasurers are on the listserv and to let her know if they are not. Patti then presented a motion on behalf of the Communications Committee so it did not require a second. The motion read:

The period of June 1 to June 30 shall be a transition period for listserv membership and posting privileges for MCCPTA_Delegates, MCCPTA_Presidents and MCCPTA_Treasurers, such that during that period, as locals are transitioning from one year to the next, both incoming and outgoing Delegates, Presidents and Treasurers may be on the appropriate listserv simultaneously, with posting privileges as allowed by current listserv rules

A suggestion was made to vote on this motion this evening. There was unanimous consent to conduct the vote and the motion passed unanimously.

Nominating Committee

Andrea Bernardo, chair of the Nominating Committee brought forth the following nominees for Officers, Area Vice Presidents, and Cluster Coordinators:

President: Kay Romero

Treasurer: Dale Ryan

Recording Secretary for Delegate Assembly: open

Recording Secretary for Board of Directors: open

Vice President for Educational Issues: Ted Willard

Vice President for Administration: Liz Wheeler

Vice President for Programs: Karen Smith

Vice President for Legislation: Merry Eisner

<p>Clarksburg, Damascus, Gaithersburg, Magruder, & Watkins Mill Clusters Area VP: Allyson Morrison</p> <p><u>Clarksburg</u> Jaimie Jacobson Sonya Leaman Donna Pfeiffer</p> <p><u>Damascus</u> Leslie Cuneo Kristin Tribble Dawn Lee</p> <p><u>Gaithersburg</u> Steve Augustino Valerie Rivers</p> <p><u>Magruder</u> Dawn Trahern Ted Willard Annie Ahmed</p> <p><u>Watkins Mill</u> Brenda Szczesny Susan Young Lon Hamann</p>	<p>Bethesda-Chevy Chase, Walter Johnson, Wheaton, & Whitman Clusters Area VP: Terry Salus</p> <p><u>Bethesda-Chevy Chase</u> Jack Hayes Joy White Craig Brown</p> <p><u>Wheaton</u> Open</p> <p><u>Whitman</u> Deborah Goldman Paula Robinson</p> <p><u>Walter Johnson</u> Open</p>	<p>Churchill, Richard Montgomery, Rockville, and Wootton Clusters Area VP: Andrea Q. Bernardo</p> <p><u>Churchill</u> Laurie Halverson Janette Gilman Laura Siegel</p> <p><u>Rockville</u> Open</p> <p><u>Wootton</u> Carol Falk Jen Pories Richard Edelman</p> <p><u>Richard Montgomery</u> Lori Merrill Kate Savage</p>
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<p>Blair, Einstein, Kennedy, & Northwood Clusters Area VP: Sally Taber</p> <p><u>Blair</u> Open</p> <p><u>Einstein</u> Open</p> <p><u>Kennedy</u> Open</p> <p><u>Northwood</u> Open</p>	<p>Blake, Paint Branch, Springbrook, & Clusters Area VP (NEC): Patti Twigg Area VP Sherwood Cluster: Open</p> <p><u>Blake</u> Open</p> <p><u>Paint Branch</u> Patti Twigg</p> <p><u>Springbrook</u> Open</p> <p><u>Sherwood</u> Fran Simons</p>	<p>Northwest, Poolesville, Quince Orchard, & Seneca Valley Clusters Area VP: Juan Johnson</p> <p><u>Quince Orchard</u> Paul Morrison Kevin Farragher Jim Keenan</p> <p><u>Poolesville</u> Open</p> <p><u>Seneca Valley</u> Julie Lucas</p> <p><u>Northwest</u> Open</p>
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Jane de Winter then reviewed the election procedures for the April Delegates Assembly.

Bylaws Committee

Linna Barnes, chair of the Bylaws Committee presented a proposed change to the bylaws. Until recently, our Board of Directors had had a quorum of 15. During the most recent revision of the bylaws, Maryland PTA added the requirement that council bylaws require that the quorum for the Board of Directors be one of majority. Since there are over 80 people on the Board of Directors, it has been extremely difficult for us to have a quorum at our meetings. The proposal is to have the quorum be 25, rather than have a majority of total membership of the Board of the Directors. The proposed changes are as follows:

Article VIII, section 8. At all meetings of the board of directors, a majority of **twenty-five (25)** members of the board of directors, **including a majority of the elected officers in the 25**, shall constitute a quorum of business.

It was noted that this was one of three separate proposals to deal with the bylaws considered by the Board of Directors. Furthermore, it was noted that the Board of Directors meeting where this motion was discussed and sent on to the delegates did not have a quorum, as has been the case with several resolutions this year.

Curriculum Committee

Ted Willard, Chair of the Curriculum Committee, presented a resolution

Whereas an examination of the MCPS language arts curriculum by the College Board has noted an inadequate emphasis on writing, and

Whereas many parents in the school system are concerned that students are not learning as much grammar as they should, and

Whereas Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS) is currently engaged in Middle School Reform, and

Whereas the state of Maryland has minimum expectations for how many books students in middle school should read each year and could in the same way set minimum expectations for the amount of writing that students in middle school should be expected to complete each year, therefore be it

Resolved that the MCPS Department of Curriculum and Instruction, in consultation with MCCPTA and other stakeholders, set a minimum number of substantive writing assignments, with the expectation of the use of proper grammar and organization, that students be expected to do each year, and be it Resolved that these expectations may be met in classes such as Social Studies and Science in addition to Language Arts.

The Delegates were asked to take the Resolution back to their local PTAs and to be prepared to take action on it at the April Delegates Assembly.

Special Events Committee

April Keyes thanked the people who have volunteered to assist with the Presidents and Principals Dinner. She still needs help getting some donated gift certificates for the students who are performing and for the MCs: Leon Harris from Channel 7 and Donielle Flynn, a former anchor from DC 101. She noted that we still need a musical group since one of our groups had to back out.

Health Committee

Next month's Delegate Assembly Program will focus on nutrition and physical education/activity. Everyone is encouraged to attend.

Operating Budget Committee

Lilo Mitz and Pam Moomau shared information they received from a meeting with Marshal Spatz, MCPS Director of Management and Budget. The Board of Education had requested \$2.1 Billion for the 2009 Fiscal Year (FY 2009). The County Executive has recommended \$51 million less than what the Board of Education requested, which works out to 2.4% of the total operating budget request. The complete budget submitted by the County Executive is on the county's web site.

Dr. Weast has said that such a cut could result in a loss of 800 MCPS positions, including 400 teaching positions. Frequently, the first thing cut from a budget is new initiatives. This year, the new initiatives include expanding middle school reform to ten more schools, an increase in the number of elementary school principals, and additional counselors.

County Revenue comes roughly one third from property taxes, one third from income taxes, and one third from other taxes. There is currently a \$207 million shortfall in the budget. One way of offsetting that limit is to overrule the Charter limit on property tax revenue. The Montgomery County Charter requires that the amount that people pay for their property tax to increase in a given year only as much as the Consumer Price Index increases in that year. It takes seven votes on the council to go beyond that limit. Clusters will testify on the budget on April 7 and 9.

Board of Education Transfer Policy

Jane de Winter noted that there had been plans to discuss the Board of Education's Transportation Policy tonight. The tentative policy out for public comment has not been posted to the MCPS website yet. MCPS indicated the tentative policy would go up on the web on March 25 along with the regulation framework.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Maryland PTA

Jane de Winter mentioned that she had attending the Maryland PTA winter Board of Directors meeting this past month and that she had included a lot of information from MD PTA was in the President's letter.

Spring Training

Spring Training for PTA leaders will be at 6:30 pm on Wednesday, June 4th at Blake High School. There will be sessions for Presidents & Vice Presidents, Treasurers, Secretaries, Reflections Chairs, Bylaws Chairs, FLES Chairs, and Hands on Science Chairs.

May Delegates Assembly

Jane de Winter noted that the Delegates needed to decide if there would be a Delegates Assembly in May. If there is one, it would take place on Wednesday May 28 because of a conflict on Tuesday, May 27. Andrea Bernardo made a motion to not have one. It was seconded and passed by voice vote.

NEW BUSINESS

Kindergarten Survey

Delegates had been asked to solicit feedback from their locals so that action could be taken tonight in order to provide feedback to MCPS by April 1st. A number of PTAs have shared feedback. Jim Golden from Travilah Elementary School made a motion to recommend that:

MCPS conduct their Kindergarten Assessments on the second and third week of the school year on non-consecutive school days.

Rochelle Hodes moved an amendment to replace the “during the second and third week” with “during the second, third and fourth week”. The amendment was seconded and passed by voice vote. Ben Kassel made an amendment to delete “on non-consecutive days.” The motion was seconded and passed by voice vote. The overall motion passed by voice vote: As passed it read:

MCPS conduct their Kindergarten Assessments on the second, third, and forth week of the school year.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 9:44