

**DRAFT Minutes MCCPTA Delegates Assembly  
March 27, 2007  
Carver Education Service Center**

**Program:** Traffic and Pedestrian Safety around Schools

**Business Meeting**

**Call to Order:** Jane de Winter, MCCPTA President called the meeting to order at 8:00 PM

**Mission of the PTA:** Liz Wheeler, MCCPTA Secretary for Board of Directors

**Additions to Agenda:** Delegates Listserv Resolution introduced under New Business

**Approval of Minutes:** On motion made and seconded, the draft minutes of the February 27, 2007 Delegates Assembly was approved as amended by voice vote.

**Treasurer Report:** Juan Johnson, MCCPTA Treasurer presented Balance Sheet as of March 27, 2007, Budget vs. Actuals for the period of July 2006-March 2007 and Profit and Loss for period July 1, 2006-March 27, 2007. Past due notices for dues being sent to PTAs and cluster coordinators. No questions and treasurer report will be filed.

**Proposed Resolution:** Draft Resolution on Site Coordinators is presented by Kate Savage, Area VP and Liz Wheeler, Co-Cluster Coordinator, Richard Montgomery HS Cluster. Questions and answers were posted on Delegates listserv concerning this proposed resolution over the last month. This would create a new position to mirror the one currently financed by construction budget. This is discretionary and with negative consequences to principals needing one by their having to give up a position and money from construction budget in order to choose this.

Delegate from Walter Johnson supports this idea for elementary schools as high schools can use administrators. Elementary schools do not have as many staff to allocate and are most times offsite during construction. Do not want to delegate choices to others. High school budgetary concerns for schools that opt not to use site coordinators are raised. Could they add money to another part of budget?

Delegate from Blake HS proposed an amendment to add to last resolve the words "or staffing." Motion was seconded.

Amendment to add to last resolve passes by voice vote.

Delegate from Twinbrook ES spoke in favor of this amendment as a person is needed to supervise construction.

Vote to approve proposed resolution as amended passes by voice vote.

**Resolution on Site Coordinators**  
Adopted by MCCPTA Delegates on March 27, 2007

WHEREAS, Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS) currently only funds site coordinators for secondary schools under the construction budget;

WHEREAS, a current Site Coordinator has alerted a school to issues arising with the replacement school construction, thereby resulting in savings for the school, MCPS and county citizens;

WHEREAS, the funding for the salary of this Site Coordinator is shared

between the MCPS Division of Construction and the school's budget for furniture;

WHEREAS, the Montgomery County Council of Parent-Teacher Associations (MCCPTA) knows the benefits of a Site Coordinator and urges its extension to other MCPS schools scheduled for renovation;

AND WHEREAS, MCPS currently does not offer Site Coordinators to elementary schools;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the MCCPTA endorses and will advocate for Site Coordinators to be assigned to any MCPS school under construction or modernization;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that MCPS should revise the funding source for salaries for Site Coordinators such that implementation of the objectives of this resolution will not negatively affect the school's budget for construction or modernization or staffing.

**Bylaws Committee** - Vicki Rafel, MCCPTA Bylaws Chair presents a motion for a MCCPTA Bylaws revision. Attached are some items for rationale.

Coming from committee, no second is needed

PTA requires that the quorum for the MCCPTA board of directors be a majority. The board of directors currently numbers more than ninety people (officers, area vice presidents, cluster coordinators, and committee chairs) which sets the quorum at about forty-six people. Reducing the number of people on the board would allow the quorum requirement to be achieved more easily. This revision would give us the opportunity to look at how we function and perhaps to enhance the board's efficiency, accountability, and effectiveness.

Maryland PTA changed council template regarding majority for quorum. Our bylaws contain the number 15 as quorum. Due to the number we have on board we need 46 for quorum. We need to look at this to be able to do business as an organization. We are asking Maryland PTA to change this requirement. We still need investigate what we need to do as an organization.

If someone wanted to offer a simple amendment to bylaws then for this issue that would entail addressing multiple sections of our bylaws where the composition of the Board is addressed and would be a larger revision. We are not going to race into this issue. The positions involved do the work of the organization. We need to still have Board that can function and deliver support and services to locals, etc.

We need Delegates permission to start the process and discussions. Everything will come back to Board and Delegates to take back to locals and later be voted on by Delegates.

Delegate from Hoover MS asks about revision clarification and whether we need to ask for a revision or do we want to amend.

The wording is in our bylaws. To amend would be one amendment at a time or to ask for a revision.

Vote on motion for a MCCPTA Bylaws revision passes by voice vote.

**Motion from MCCPTA Bylaws Committee**

In accordance with the MCCPTA bylaws Article XVIII — Amendments, I

move that the delegates vote for a revision of the MCCPTA bylaws relating to the organization and operations of the MCCPTA board of directors.

**Joint statement-** Jane de Winter brings forward a statement put together by MCCPTA, MCAASP, MCEA, and SEIU Local 500 regarding the Montgomery County Board of Education's FY 2008 Operating Budget Request. If delegates want to endorse, take out portions or add portions then that is what the discussion tonight is about.

Concerns are about the budget proposed by the County Executive. Saying it is fiscal responsible budget is not saying that every dollar in it is terrific. The statement is saying the percentage increase that they are asking for this year is consistent with revenue situation.

Delegate from Cashell ES has question about wording on fiscal responsible budget and pledge. Clarification needed for which budget cut. Need to clarify this as County Executive's proposal

Delegate from Potomac ES concerned about language in 3<sup>rd</sup> bullet as overstatement. Budget is increasing but rate of increase is decreasing. Rate of growth is not as fast.

Area VP for Blair, Einstein, Northwood and Kennedy has question about if all county agencies have a 1% cut.

Motion on floor to amend:

3<sup>rd</sup> bullet, line 2: *"The county executive's proposed budget cut is inconsistent with every pledge that they have made. If they cut the schools now when they have the money, what will they do when the fiscal situation changes?"*

Bullet 4, line 1: *"The Montgomery County Board of Education FY08 Operating Budget requests is a fiscally responsible budget that will work well with other county priorities. The county has the money to fully fund this budget as well as the other agencies' budgets without cuts."*

Safety Committee, Chair Pam Moomau states Bullet 4 has been made clearer. Bullet 3, more discussion needed.

Chair (Jane de Winter) divides the two amendments for individual vote.

Bullet 3, line 2 passes by voice vote.

Bullet 4, line 1 passes by voice vote.

Delegate from Potomac ES makes motion to delete 3<sup>rd</sup> bullet. Motion is seconded.

Delegate from Churchill Cluster states the Bullet 3 is controversial and not stating factual information and up for debate.

Delegate from Walter Johnson states that this is an advocacy document and Bullet 3 is a valuable portion. We are trying to advocate for our cause and hold elected officials accountable and strengthens document overall.

Delegate from Takoma Park ES speaks in favor to keep this in.

Delegate from Mill Creek Town raises concerns about the word cut in 3<sup>rd</sup> sentence in Bullet 3. We may need to modify the word cut with the word reduction.

Delegate from DuFief ES wants to strengthen Bullet 3 by adding a number to rate of increase for comparison.

Safety Committee Chair, Pam Moomau supports deleting Bullet 3 due to concerns on election language and precision of wording.

Delegate from Thurgood Marshall ES supports leaving it in to tell elected officials that represent us that they are accountable to us. We are trying to gain strength with this.

Delegate from Clarksburg HS supports leaving 3<sup>rd</sup> bullet in and proposes amending the amendment to *“The proposed budget 1% rate decrease seems inconsistent with the pledges they made.”* In addition strike last line, *“If they cut the schools now...”*

Delegate from Takoma Park ES Opposes amendment as it is not worth diverging from original and no need for this wordsmithing.

The proposed amendment to retain bullet 3 with these changes fails to pass by standing vote: (35 no) (25 yes)

Vote on proposed amendment to completely eliminate Bullet 3 fails to pass by standing vote: (40 no) (21 yes)

Bylaws chair, Vicki Rafel presents motion to amend Bullet 3 in first sentence, *“All of our public officials have committed to maintaining and improving educational programs.”*

Motion was seconded.

Safety Chair, Pam Moomau spoke in favor. Need to take election language out

Delegate from Takoma Park ES spoke against removing election language.

Wootton Cluster Coordinator, Andrea Bernardo spoke against removing election language

Vote to approve amendment passes by voice vote.

Delegate for Martin Luther King MS spoke against including special education wording in last bullet given what happen with Learning Centers and how budget was used for that.

Delegate from Churchill HS spoke to leave special education in as it needs to remain to remind them what money is for.

Vote to amend by taking special education out fails to pass on voice vote.

Vote to approve whole joint statement as amended passes by voice vote.

**Joint Statement from MCCPTA, MCAASP, MCEA, and SEIU Local 500 Regarding the Montgomery County Board of Education’s FY 2008 Operating Budget Request**

- This is a community that supports education; has traditionally supported education; has supported disadvantaged students and public education that is effective for all children.
- The current budget increases will allow the school system to attract and retain the best employees to give all children what they need and the resources to fund initiatives such as middle school reform, secondary school counselors, hours based staffing, and assistant principals.
- All of our public officials have committed to maintaining and improving educational programs. The County Executive’s proposed budget cut is inconsistent with every pledge that they have made. If

they cut the schools now when they have the money, what will they do when the fiscal situation changes?

- The Montgomery County Board of Education's requested FY 2008 operating budget is a fiscally responsible budget that will work well with other county priorities. The county has the money to fully fund this budget as well as the other agencies' budgets without cuts.
- The school system's percentage share of the total county budget has been decreasing over the past three years.
- The increases in the school budget over the past few years have gone to support equitable programs for children such as targeted class size reductions, special education, reducing maximum class sizes, and additional magnet programs.

**Unfinished business:** May Delegates Assembly - Do we want to have one? Last year was first year for May Delegates Assembly.

Question was asked if bylaws changes might be presented then. Bylaws chair said it could happen.

Delegate from Tilden, MS made a motion to not have a May Delegates Assembly. Motion was seconded.

Delegate from Walter Johnson HS made a motion to table until April's Delegate Assembly.

Bylaws chair, Vicki Rafel speaks against motion to not have May Delegates Assembly and thinks we may need the May Delegates Assembly for issue of bylaws revision.

Vote on motion to table until April the decision about May Delegates Assembly passes by voice vote.

**Nominating Committee:** Mark Rother, Chair presents nomination slate and explains how to nominate from floor, etc.

3 Delegate voting cards were sent to each school. Need cards to vote. PTAs need to pay dues and insurance payments. Money will be collected that night. All Board of Directors members received cards. Call Cathy Lilja at MCCPTA office if you need one.

**Outside Speakers Resolution:** Last month Delegates voted to refer this proposed resolution to Executive Committee. Handout in packets has information as to actions concerning this proposed resolution and why Executive Committee voted to not bring this forward.

**President and Principals Dinner:** April Keyes, VP for Program highlights the date for the dinner is May 23 at Bethesda Marriott. Tickets are \$60 and are much less than expected. We raised \$9,000 dollars from donations for dinner. Please remember that this is different venue this year. Two awards are given out MCCPTA Partners for Education Awards and MCCPTA Maryland Life Membership Award. Guidelines for nominations are in your packets. This event will be filmed by ITV for later viewing.

**Maryland PTA items:** Maryland PTA discussing having statewide insurance company for all PTAs instead of one we use. There will be an upcoming vote at Maryland PTA Convention.

Maryland PTA has an Extension Plan Committee that will now help open new PTAs.

**HB160** –Parents on Maryland State Board of Education- bill dead. Two people from Montgomery County are to be appointed by Governor O'Malley, Blair Ewing and Rosa Garcia.

This bill will probably be brought up again next year by Maryland PTA.

**MCCPTA Spring Training Flyer:** This flyer is included in packets. The date for training is May 30, 2007 at Rockville HS from 6:30- 9:00PM.

**BOE Policy Revision:** Early Childhood Education Policy is up for revision and is available on MCPS website. Please review.

**Grading and Reporting Committee, Beth Kennington, Cochair:** Proposed resolution presented to be voted on at April's Delegates Assembly. Please take back to your local schools for discussion. Additional informational documents are included with this resolution.

### **PROPOSED RESOLUTION FOR GRADING AND REPORTING**

The Montgomery County Council of Parent-Teacher Associations (MCCPTA) finds that the application used by Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS) in computing secondary school final grades at the end of each two-quarter period (semester) results in compression of grades under its current application.

WHEREAS MCPS currently applies the grading methodology detailed in the Grade Configuration Table for Semester Grades (GCTSG method) when computing final grades in secondary schools; and

WHEREAS MCPS' use of the GCTSG method may result in grade compression when a final exam is given or in grade trending when no final exam is given, based on the 0-100 percent grade conversions to a letter grade; and

WHEREAS MCPS Policy IKA, Grading and Reporting, states that "[f]air representation of a student's performance on a variety of measures over time" and "[a]ccurate and precise records that support reported achievement" shall occur; and

WHEREAS the MCCPTA believes that in the interest of fairness to students and accuracy in the reporting of grades, MCPS should revise its Grading Procedures in Grades 6-12 to incorporate a procedure in which each semester/final grade is determined by weighting the grades on a 0-100 % scale (percentage scale), now be it, therefore,

RESOLVED that the MCCPTA requests that Montgomery County Public Schools discontinue use of the Grade Configuration Table for Semester Grades when calculating a semester or final grade; and be it, further,

RESOLVED that the MCCPTA requests that Montgomery County Public Schools revise the Grading Procedures in Grades 6-12 to require that final grades for all secondary courses be determined by weighting the final grade on percentage scale for each of the two quarters and for the final exam grade, if one is given; and be it, further,

RESOLVED that MCCPTA requests that MCPS retain the percentage grade earned, when reporting a letter grade on the report card in order to later demonstrate the most precise measure of each student's letter grade earned.

Read through materials and if you have any questions please contact Sharon St. Pierre or Beth Kennington, Cochairs of Grading and Reporting Committee. All items will be posted to MCCPTA website.

**Proposed Resolution on Delegates Listserv: "Resolution to Revoke Previous Resolution Concerning the MCCPTA Delegates Listserv"**

WHEREAS, the resolution adopted on February 27, 2007 at the MCCPTA Delegates Assembly, entitled "Resolution on MCCPTA Delegates Listserv" was introduced and passed in an expedited manner without any demonstrated urgency, and

WHEREAS, said resolution affects members of the MCCPTA community who had no opportunity to discuss or debate the resolution, and

WHEREAS, the delegates listserv is a crucial venue for discussion and debate on issues relevant to MCCPTA business, and members of the broader MCCPTA community often make valuable contributions such discussion and debate, and

WHEREAS, other measures could be employed to better address the issue of excessive email traffic on the listserv which was the stated goal of the resolution, be it therefore

Be it therefore RESOLVED, that the resolution adopted on February 27, 2007 at the MCCPTA Delegates Assembly, entitled "Resolution on MCCPTA Delegates Listserv" shall be revoked and the previous policy concerning posting privileges to said listserv shall be effective immediately, unless and until such time as it is modified by another vote by the Delegates Assembly.

This proposed resolution brought forward by Keats Kirsch, Takoma Park ES Delegate.

Discussion: Point of order about motion vs. resolution. Motion made by Delegate to rescind. This is what happened last month in someone bringing motion from floor. If we want to holdover till next month that can be proposed. Body was asked last month if they wanted to vote on motion last month and they voted yes. Motions are normally voted on same evening. If someone makes motion to holdover then that can happen.

Second was made to proposed motion.

Vicki Rafel brings point of order on what Robert Rules states. One needs to ask to restore not revoke.

Area VP, Blair, Einstein, Kennedy and Northwood states that this new change has been an improvement

Voting on motion to restore privileges failed to pass on voice vote.

**Meeting was adjourned 9:49 PM**