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

**December 9, 2020**

**Zoom meeting**

Cynthia Simonson, MCCPTA President, called the meeting to order at 7:03 pm. A quorum was present. The agenda was approved. The November minutes were approved.

**Special Presentation**

Randall MacGill from Magruder HS PTSA presented information about using real-time interpreters during Zoom meetings. Including real-time interpretation makes meetings more inviting. The webinar add-in is no longer required in order to allow interpreters, so cost is reduced. The detailed instructions are provided in a separate PowerPoint file in the meeting materials. The meeting host needs to find the interpreters. Some PTSAs have located interpreters through MCPS.

**Updates**

Update on MD PTA- Cynthia Simonson

Previous MD PTA President, VP-Advocacy, and (possibly) the Secretary resigned. The presidents of the seven PTA councils in MD expect to hear from the new MD PTA President, soon. They have requested minutes from the BOD meeting at which officers were elected plus the resumes/qualifications for the officers. They have not received these items, yet. As of Dec 9, MD PTA had not provided information about virtual membership meetings.

**Officer Reports**

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

Recovery Teams- Cynthia continued discussions with the Deputy Superintendent Advisory Group and the

Policy and Regulations Design Team feedback/comment on MCPS planning process.

Following conversations MCCPTA held last year regarding principal selection process (and timing/role of community/transparency in that selection), MCCPTA engaged in discussions recently with the Black and Brown Coalition around the current practice where schools with the highest impacts are often being led by novice leaders (and the less impacted communities have the more experienced leaders). The MCCPTA Area Vice Presidents, along with Cynthia, recently talked with MCPS Area Superintendents about next steps. There will be more information.

MCPS Appeals Process/Ombudsman- MCPS has numerous areas that allow for appeals but little clarity on the process. Further, there are no data on the percentage of appeals that are successful. In a meeting with the Superintendent, MCCPTA Executive Committee shared our concerns. MCPS will review the current process and come back to us with recommendations for improvement. Related, MCPS has an Ombudsman position but few parents know how to access the services. Further, we’ve raised concern the position does not seem “impartial” since the same individual is also the Chief of Staff for the Board of Education, where an appeal eventually may lead.

Update on State Board of Ed’s recommended changes to credit requirements for graduation. (Information in the meeting PowerPoint; black = current requirement; red = proposed changes) The changes would affect the class of 2025 (Fall 2021 Freshmen).

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

One new item not in the written report- State Board of Education decided that this year’s seniors do not have to pass the state World Studies exam as a graduation requirement.

Testing capacity for scheduled tests Dec. 5 (SAT) and Dec. 12 (ACT) were reduced following new restrictions in Montgomery County. Some students were dropped because of the limitations.

Choice (magnet) program update- No CogAT application test this year for MS program. MCPS will do universal review of all Grade 5 students in February and recommend placement in magnet programs or home school magnet

courses (primarily math and humanities, to date) based on lottery rather than home school cohorts. For HS magnet programs, the CogAT will not be held, either. Also, teacher recommendations will not be part of the process. Families will be notified via ParentVue in February of student selection. The letters to parents are included at the end of the officer report.

Officers report includes details about MP1 and MP2 grading and reporting.

VP of Programs- James Modrick- (See written report for details)

Celebration of Excellence- We will hear more in the spring. We need tech savvy individuals with video experience to help prepare the celebration/recognition of awardees.

VP for Administrative Issues- Rochelle Fink

The nominating committee will meet on December 14 to select a chair and then begin the search for MCCPTA officers.

Remember to send SoCA items to MD PTA.

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

Testified at State Assembly, Montgomery County Priorities meeting on the school budget needs. Testified at County Council meeting on the need for Premium Payment Rate for Public School Improvements. Written version of testimony is included with the officer report.

Laura provided an update on CIP budget items (separate PowerPoint file). The BOE’s budget is now with the county executive. One particular concern is HVAC appropriations. In FY21 only $3 mil was appropriated. For FY22, the request is $5 mil. For FY22, we need to fight for the needed funding and hope that federal money is available to help ensure students can safely return to school.

Based on fiscal realities (report from County Executive on Dec 8) the County Council may not be able to fund the approved CIP budget.

Open data topic-

Laura asked for volunteers to help her draft a letter with the Montgomery County delegation in the state legislature to pressure MCPS to provide open data.

Treasurer- Khristy Kartsakalis- (See written financial documents)

Current balance is $68,752. Outstanding checks- $4176. Balance on hand- $64,576.

$13,146 in membership dues received.

990 was completed and sent to MD PTA on 11/13/2020.

Important deadline- Charitable filing is due Dec 31. It requires the PTA President’s signature.

**Committees (More written reports in the meeting materials)**

Health and Wellness- Hannah Donart (See written report)

The written report includes detailed information about the Environmental Health Subcommittee’s meeting with Seth Adams and other from MCPS on facility needs, such as safe indoor air and water, for students to return to school. They met on November 19 and will meet again on December 17.

**Unfinished Business**

MCCPTA Resolutions- We have at least 20 years of MCCPTA Resolutions, but the board is not familiar with most of them. We need to determine how to handle resolutions- should they be reviewed or archived on a regular cycle? The standing rules (to be developed in late winter/early spring) should address this process.

MCPS Reopening Metrics- Francesco Paganini’s presentation on MCPS reopening metrics was recorded and shared with the BOE. Cynthia Simonson and Rodney Peele met with Derek Turner to discuss MCPS reopening metrics. MCCPTA is not taking a position on metrics or sequencing of students for return, because of the wide range of views. However, there is a concern that the dates being discussed publicly by MCPS are not realistic when the metrics are considered.

**New Business**

Families helping families campaign- update and next steps

Last spring and summer, some schools rapidly and efficiently raised money to help purchase grocery gift cards for families facing food insecurity. The Families Helping Families campaign is a partnership between MCCPTA, MCPS, and the MCPS Education Foundation that was set up to formalize this effort on a larger scale. As indicated in the information provide by Gillian Huebner (in Dec and Jan meeting materials), this process has been slower than that implemented by individual schools. Since launching in September, the Families Helping Families campaign has received 355 donations totaling $34,410. To date, $1,000 in grocery cards have been distributed through the MCPS Office of Student and Family Support and Engagement (OSFSE). Distribution has been slow as accountability systems had to be established. We need to look at best practices from the schools that were successful in this effort.

BOD member resignations- Lynne Harris, Past President, resigned from the MCCPTA BOD after she was elected to MCPS BOE, consistent with MCCPTA bylaws.

Lisa Cline resigned from her position as Safe Tech chair. The executive committee is looking for a replacement.

MCR-SGA comments on SRO resolution- Mauricio Quintero-Aviles from the MCR-SGA Executive Board spoke to the board about SROs. The MCR-SGA strongly urges MCCPTA develop a new resolution that supports discontinuing the placement of police officers (SROs) on high school campuses.

(Note- DEI and School Climate and Safety Committees are working on a new resolution)

The meeting adjourned at 8:58 pm

Minutes submitted by Kellie Schoolar Reynolds, MCCPTA Secretary for BOD