

February 2009

Legislative Committee Report

Chair: Rebecca Smondrowski

The Legislative committee has been working on several action items this month:

- 1) We have begun planning to coordinate groups of Clusters to visit Annapolis throughout February and March. We will be relying on Cluster Coordinators (as well as the Area VP's) to work with us together as a group in an effort to maximize participation and to oversee the preparation of their group's trips. Ideally, we would like to make sure that there are several people from each of the Clusters going each time, so that every delegate's constituents are represented at some point during session. If you do not think that your Cluster can attend on your assigned date, please let me know and we will work with you to switch dates so we don't mess up the intentional mix of geographic areas that are scheduled to attend as follows:

Group 1 - Date for Representation: Feb 11th, 2009

Winston Churchill
Northwest
Clarksburg
Watkins Mill
Bethesda-Chevy Chase

Group 2 - Date for Representation: Feb 25th, 2009

Richard Montgomery
Poolesville
Damascus
Northeast Consortium
Walter Johnson

Group 3 - Date for Representation: Mar 11th, 2009

Rockville
Quince Orchard
Gaithersburg
Sherwood
Wheaton

Group 4 - Date for Representation: Feb 25th, 2009

Thomas S Wootton
Seneca Valley
Magruder
DownCounty Consortium
Walt Whitman

Car pools would target a 10:00 am departure time with arrival at 11:00 am. Multicolored Flyers (based on Clusters and dates of visits) are going to be put together highlighting a few target points, items of support, and/or areas of concern based on the Clusters they will be coming from. Clusters are encouraged to raise issues important and specific to their clusters. MCCPTA organization positions are also encouraged to be promoted.

We will be contacting our Legislators and making them aware that we are coming. This will be a great opportunity to tour the State House, meet with members of the Montgomery County Delegation, and remind everyone that we are here. We strongly encourage participation in this exercise so that we can let our Delegation know that not only are we paying attention this session, but that we are all working together.

I am also working on putting together a separate formal 'Meet and Greet' evening event that we are hopeful will be a strong showing of strength for Montgomery County. This will be another chance for people to come to Annapolis and have a chance to bend a few ears. Further details of this event (including the date) will follow as soon as they are confirmed.

2) The last couple of weeks, we have begun contacting the Montgomery County Delegation to specifically determine and discuss any bills they are working on, or are aware of, that the MCCPTA should be paying close attention to. We will continue these efforts through-out the remainder of session, as well as closely monitor any new Bills as they are introduced.

3) Currently, we are following both National PTA interest as well as working with MDPTA in an effort to update MCCPTA as to which legislation they are watching, supporting, and opposing. We are also working with several parents as well as Committee Chairs trying to pull together as much information as possible about Bills that they have brought to our attention. If anyone comes across any legislation that they would like for us to look into or follow, please just let me know.

4) On Wednesday, January 28th, SB 15 (School Construction—Pedestrian Bicycle Trail Enhancements—Funding) will be heard. Given concerns about where the funding for the Bill's supporting projects would specifically come from, MDPTA will be submitting testimony in support of this bill but with a request for potential amendments to be added.

These are busy times, and things are moving fast.

OPERATING BUDGET:

**Pam Moomau and The Operating Budget Committee worked an endless number of hours putting together several powerful events. Community forums, Operating Budget workshops, and two FULL sessions of Testimony Hearings are not small parties to plan! THANK YOU PAM for all of the time, effort, and energy that you gave in making those events work for us. I also want to thank Kay Romero and Liz Wheeler, for all of their work as well as everyone who testified and showed up for support! The strongest statement we can make comes just from being there.

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS:

**Steve Augustino has been continuing his efforts to advocate for the CIP and will be presenting us with an Amendment to vote on tonight. I think I speak for all of us when I say that any other county would be hard pressed to find someone who can put together a Cluster Coordinator's Guide To Understanding the 2010 CIP manual better than Steve can! Thank you Steve!