

MINUTES OF THE MCCPTA BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

Thursday, December 3, 2009 at Carver Education Services Center

ATTENDANCE:

Officers: Kay Romero, Kristin Tribble, Jaimie Jacobson, DeBora King, Patti Twigg
Area Vice Presidents, Cluster Coordinators & Committee Chairs: Andrea Q. Bernardo, Steve Augustino, Priscilla Peterson, Ted Willard, Mary Abe, Pam Moomau, Laurie Halverson, Craig Brown, Deborah Goldman, Keith Parsky, Jean Schlesinger, Sonya Leaman, Donna Pfeiffer, Annie Ahmed, Dawn Lee, Juan Johnson, Beth Kennington, Paul Morrison, Kevin David, Merry Eisner, Laura Siegel, Lara Turner, Lee Ann Doerflinger

OPENING BUSINESS:

Call to Order: MCCPTA President, Kay Romero, called the meeting to order at 7:39 PM. A quorum was present.

Agenda: A motion was made to add the following items to the agenda: Grading & Reporting changes to the rubric. Motion passed to approve the agenda as amended.

November Minutes: – Steve Augustino moved to strike paragraph four of the CIP Committee Report (*There is a plan to add more schools in the modernization list – six more High Schools are to be built including Poolsville and Damascus.*), and in paragraph five, replace *Tilden Middle School* with *Woodward facility*. Merry Eisner made a motion to approve minutes as amended. Motion passed.

Treasurer's Report:

Jaimie reports that he is responding to issues with Maryvale ES.

Jaimie encourages PTAs to send checks monthly as they receive members.

Juan Johnson asked a question about a category in the budget for credit cards, and wondered if we had a credit card at Staples. Jaimie replied that this is a store card account.

Merry Eisner had a question about how much money was left in the Legislative budget (\$2,800 versus \$1,400). It was discovered that the \$600 expense for the Committee for Montgomery breakfast should have gone under community outreach. Jaimie will adjust the line item.

The Treasurer's report will be filed.

OFFICER REPORTS:

Office – Kay announced that we received the Blue Books and how they will be distributed. We are being asked to collect volunteer hours for the work out members do

on behalf of their schools, and tabulate how much money is raised by our PTAs on behalf of children. National PTA wants this information by the end of February. Kay will share the information when National PTA sends it out. Kay went over various items recently posted to MCCPTA listservs.

Educational Issues - Kristin Tribble asked that everyone let her know of there are any conflicts for the BOE Operating Budget hearings in January.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Bylaws Committee - Andrea Q. Bernardo stated that the proposed conforming bylaws amendments will be available for January so it can go to the delegates the end of January.

CIP Committee - Steve Augustino commended everyone on their testimonies which were focused and helpful to the board. Steve may be asking people to send letters to the County Executive reminding him of the priorities of PTA. He encourages us to continue to follow up with the board of education to consider CIP issues that were raised in our testimonies over the next 6-8 months.

Operating Budget Committee - Pam Moomau announced that the superintendent is releasing his proposed operating budget on December 9th. He will also provide a list of things that could be cut if MCPS can't get full funding from the County Council. Pam states that we need a good turnout for the upcoming Operating Budget Forum as well as all of the testimonies so that they can see that people really care. Pam also encourages hard mail or a petition. Pam advises that when addressing maintenance issues to work with your school's building staff to make sure every item has a work order submitted.

Health and Safety Committee – Laurie Halverson announced that next Monday, the 7th, there will be a Health and Safety Committee meeting. There will be a couple of speakers, an EFO (Educational Facility Officer) and his supervisor and possibly others. If you cannot attend, Laurie will be writing up a report.

Laurie went to a health council meeting this week. She stated we can find updates at the Montgomery County website to receive information about all of their H1N1 clinics. There have been 34 pediatric deaths in Maryland (most in Baltimore city).

Communications Committee – There is no longer a Communications Committee. Patti Twigg and Kevin David are working on redoing all of the changes to committee due to restructuring and making sure that our website accurately reflects these changes. The website will now reflect the fact we have Standing Committees and Administrative Committees. Patti advises that if you notice something that is incorrect or out of date please let her know, as they will keep updating and maintaining the website.

Cultural Arts – Pricilla Peterson reported on the annual cultural arts budget survey, and is pleased to report that of the 46 schools she heard back from there are just as many that went up in their budget last year as the number that saw a decrease in their budget. There

are many schools that remained the same as last year. She will do a revision in another month or so and will put it out on the listserv as well as the committee web page.

CLUSTER COORDINATORS and AREA VICE-PRESIDENTS:

Northeast Consortium – Patti Twigg reported that these 3 clusters had a meeting in November with lively discussion on the Middle School curriculum. MCPS staff came from central office for the meeting. They had the largest attendance that they have had in a long time.

Whitman Cluster – had a kickoff meeting about boundary issues.

BCC Cluster – have begun the boundary study for Bradley Hills ES.

Northwest Cluster – focus group has come together and talked about an evaluation from the Monocacy Elementary School situation. There was a joint cluster meeting where they talked about safety data. Sean Taylor came and spoke at the first PTA meeting at Northwest HS on the topic of the 10 Laws of Effective Parenting in the 21st century.

Clarksburg Cluster – they are working on the Rockwell ES boundary study. There was a celebration at Clarksburg Elementary School.

Damascus Cluster – They are excited about the boundary study to have Rockwell ES students articulate all the way through Damascus schools.

Wootton Cluster - Andrea Bernardo reported that there is a problem with growth issues.

Churchill Cluster - Cabin John Middle School has been totally demolished. Cabin John MS PTSA has been working with MCPS facilities staff to make sure the Tilden holding facility is a healthy environment for students. There is concern with the state of all holding schools. Hoover MS is supposed to move in when Cabin John MS leaves.

Gaithersburg Cluster – – MCPS is rapidly working on the architectural drawings for Gaithersburg HS. They are ahead of schedule, but cannot get the Board of Education to read the plans until January 12.

Magruder Cluster – They have not heard a follow up to the latest incident that was discussed at BOD last month. The issue has come up at the Maryland PTA level as well as National PTA. Kay has spoken to the parent, and the parent is interested in legislation.

Seneca Valley Cluster – Have focused their cluster meetings on maintenance. Waters Landing ES is supposed to meet with the architect on the new addition. Juan Johnson announced that the Citizens Advisory board invited them to share what our CIP and Operating Budget priorities are for Upcounty. One of the things they came out with is other issues that affect children outside of education is the recreation department

including after school programs and after school bus transportation. Clarification was made that this was not part of CIP funding.

Northwood Cluster/DCC - Recently held a trash clean up and built a nature trail. Students collected 10,000 lbs of trash. They will be continuing throughout the year.

Wheaton Cluster – There is a group studying Thomas Edison High School because of the future Wheaton HS renovation. They are looking at the program and considering options because that program is significantly underutilized. They are trying to incorporate more college prep programs. Recommendations will be made in the mid – January time frame.

Richard Montgomery Cluster – There will be a cluster meeting in January and they will be talking to Andrea about logistics. They talked with a lot of people to gear up for CIP. Richie Park ES is dealing with coming up with an addition. Beall ES needs information on their gym roof – there is a work order. RM has spoken to Liz Wheeler about the artificial turf and what they do for upkeep. They have a deal where they don't pay anything. The only maintenance is for every 6 weeks to clean the field.

Quince Orchard Cluster - They try to hold a meeting at each school (8 schools a year). They get to talk to all the principals and discuss articulation patterns, MCCPTA activities, and CIP issues local issues. Rachel Carson Elementary School is overcrowded and getting worse with 7 portables.

NEW BUSINESS:

Laurie Halverson led a discussion regarding the implementation of the number rubric changes to grading & reporting. Before the change, the rubric stated that:

- 4 was complete understanding
- 3 was general understanding
- 2 was developing understanding
- 1 was minimal understanding

The new rubric states that:

- 4 Exceeds the standard by demonstrating proficiency of the content or processes for the measurement topic at an exceptionally thorough level
- 3 Meets the standard by demonstrating proficiency of the content or processes for the measurement topic
- 2 Making progress toward meeting the standard
- 1 Making minimal progress toward meeting the standard

Parents are concerned that very few kids will get a four because the bar has been raised higher. Laurie questioned if we can ask as a board for more explanation about the change including statistical information. MCCPTA representatives on the GRIT committee can request clarifying information and raise concerns as identified by our members and school communities.

ANNOUNCEMENT:

The MLK Breakfast is January 18, 2010 at 7:45 a.m. MCCPTA has 10 seats available. Kay states that if you will be attending the Committee for Montgomery Breakfast we would like to give other people first choice for attending the MLK Breakfast. If you're interested and you are not going to the Committee for Montgomery Breakfast, please let Kay know. She will put it out on the listserv.

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting was adjourned at 9:33 PM.

Respectfully submitted by
DeBora King, Recording Secretary BOD